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AND

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MARRIAGE.

On the 10th October, 1896, at the Peak Church, Hongkong, by the Reverend G. R. Vallings, Military Chaplain, HERBERT JOHNSON GEDGE, eldest son of the late Reverend Johnson Hall Gedge, of Honington Rectory, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, to ELLEN, widow of JAMES PURDEY, Esq., of 28, Devonshire Place, London. [2322]

DEATH.

On Wednesday, the 7th instant, at 7 p.m., EDWARD, the dearly and fondly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. D. HASKELL, aged 11 years, 8 months, and 12 days. Deeply regretted. [2302]

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 11th September arrived, per M. M. steamer *Melbourne*, on the 13th October (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Hongkong Volunteers went into camp at Stonecutters' for a fortnight on the 12th October.

Mr. Troughton, Secretary to Admiral Oxley, has been drowned by the capsizing of a boat belonging to H.M.S. *Grafton* at Sivoutch, Korea.

The following telegram has been received by the Government from the Consul at Manila:—"Free pratique arrivals Hongkong and China ports."

In a cricket match played at Amoy on the 6th and 7th October between a Royal Artillery eleven and a local eleven the visitors won by three wickets.

Mr. Dudgeon, who went to Peking to lay before the Ministers the views of the Shanghai mercantile community on the taxation of local manufactures and tariff revision, is returning. It is believed his mission has had no practical result.

From the *Chung Ngoi San Po* we learn that the Mandarins at Canton have received telegraphic intelligence that H. E. Li Hung-chang arrived at Tientsin by the steamer *Kwanglee* on the 8th October. He is to leave for Peking in a day or two.

Colonel Hixson, the U.S. Consul at Foochow, who rendered such splendid service on the occasion of the Kucheng massacre, arrived here yesterday by the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, from Shanghai, and goes on by the same vessel to London, en route to the States.

The negotiations for a survey of the Woosung Bar by Messrs. Coode, Son and Mathews have fallen through, owing to the terms demanded by that firm. The negotiations were being carried on by Mr. W. Keswick on behalf of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

There are now six good-sized steam launches running every second day on the Poyang Lake, Kiangsi province, between the provincial capital Nanchangfu and the port of Kiukiang. This innovation is greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of the province and it is reported that in view of the impetus to trade, another steam launch company is on the point of being established to run between the same cities.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Nagasaki Shipping List* says:—Statements have recently been made to the effect that the *Centurion* has been an "uncomfortable ship." Why this should be we know not, but some other vessels on this station are reported to be in about the same state. The *Daphne*, for instance, is given a bad name by her present crew, and several of the latter are trying to get exchanged into other vessels. Whether the men have any just cause for complaint or not we cannot say, but such are the facts.

From the *Extreme Orient* we learn that on the 15th September the albumen factory of M. Berthoin at Hoihow was attacked and pillaged by Chinese. For some time past animosity has been exhibited towards the establishment and on the night of the day named a crowd collected and made an attack upon it. To obtain an entrance the enclosing wall was broken down for a length of five metres. Once inside they set to work to destroy the place and steal what they could. The chief engineer was wounded by stones that were thrown. M. Bernard, the manager, lives at some distance and did not arrive on the scene till the affair was over. The damage amounts to over a thousand dollars.

In moving the first reading of the Appropriation Bill in the Straits Legislative Council the other day the Colonial Secretary said:—He might mention that, for the next year, the rate of exchange had been calculated at 2s. 2½. The reason for that estimate was that they found the world's output of gold increasing every year, while the output of silver had decreased. Other things being equal, the consequence of that would be that the value of silver should rise a little. (Laughter.) It was a very difficult matter to discuss, it was more difficult to foresee the future value of silver, and he really did not think that any person was in a position to prophesy as to the future value of silver, or what the exchange rate would be. He only hoped that, by this time next year, they would find that their estimate was not very far wrong.

At a meeting of the Japan Economic Association, Professor Koohibei reawakened fears as to the early exhaustion of Japan's coal resources, if anything like the present output be maintained. The coal strata in this country, he says, is nowhere over 20 feet thick, less than one half of the thickness of the seams commonly found in England and America. The latter will furnish supplies for thousands of years; in Japan it is doubtful if the supply will last even one hundred years. The report from the Geological Bureau gave a coal-producing area of 100 million *taubos*, containing approximately 500 million tons of coal. The output in 1894 was 4½ million tons and this year will probably be six million. But giving a maintained average of five million tons per annum the exhaustion of the beds was already in sight. Special attention should therefore be given to the matter and coal-mining should be everywhere additionally regulated.—*Hyogo News*.

In a review of the last report of the Eastern Telegraph Co. the *Investors' Review* says:—"After studying the affairs of the Eastern Company rather closely, we cannot help throwing out the suggestion that it might be a wise policy to devote a little of its surplus profits to reduction of rates in certain directions. The heroic reductions from 9s. 2d. to 4s. 9d. per word to Australasia, from 9s. 6d. to 5s. 2d. per word to the Cape, and from 6s. to 3s. 6d. per word to Brazil, have been faced in recent years by the companies interested without serious loss, and in each case a few years have been sufficient to bring up the revenue to about the point it stood at before the reduction. Less drastic steps might be taken in piecemeal fashion by the Eastern Company—indeed, there is no call for heavy reductions—and if for a few years £50,000 per annum in profit disappeared in this manner the Company would in the end be far stronger and richer." What would Mr. Wilson, the editor of the *Review*, think of the recent increase in rates by the Eastern Extension? The latter, it will be remembered, lays the blame on the parent Company, the Eastern, because it has to pay that Company in gold for forwarding the telegrams over its system.

News received from Tientsin reports the departure from that port of Sheng Taotai for Peking on the 20th of September. Sheng Taotai will probably stay some weeks in the capital discussing with the Ministry of War and the Board of Revenue relating to the many irons which he has in the fire. It is estimated that his reputation of being a very wealthy man will cost him some Tls. 30,000 in presents to the princes, nobles, and ministers of the Imperial Court, and that upon arriving at the Chungwen gate of the capital he will have to buy his entrance into Peking at a sum not under Tls. 10,000. This is the gate where the Peking octroi is collected, and through which all persons entering the capital from the provinces must pass. Every time His Excellency Li Hung-chang goes to Peking he has had to pay about Tls. 30,000 to the gatemen (at whose head is usually a "Yellow Girdle" or noble of the Imperial clan), in order to be allowed to pass his baggage and costly presents to the Court without examination. Probably Sheng Taotai chose this moment for going to Peking in order to meet his patron, H. E. Li Hung-chang, who is expected to arrive in Peking about the 6th instant.—*N. C. Daily News*.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST.

The visit of the CZAR and CZARINA to England has, we are informed by Reuter, come to a conclusion, and the illustrious travellers are now in France. The Havas Agency was particular to telegraph out, under date of 25th ultimo, that the Russian Press states that "the visit of the CZAR to Balmoral has no political significance." We never supposed that it had any political significance. The Emperor NICHOLAS II. and his consort went to Balmoral to visit the QUEEN, the CZARINA being one of Her Majesty's favourite granddaughters and the CZAR a welcome visitor at the English Court as well as at Sandringham. The CZAR is fond of his English relations, and found their value in the trying time of his recent bereavement and consequent accession to the throne. But we do not imagine that on this occasion he went to England to even indirectly serve a political purpose. For that matter we question whether his present round of visits can correctly be construed into a political progress in any sense. His Imperial Majesty is only paying the customary visits to the principal Courts of Europe after his accession. He has, we imagine, no ulterior object to serve, and will not attempt to find one. But though there was probably never a thought concerning politics in the mind of the CZAR it is quite possible that his ministers may have intended to utilise the opportunities that might occur to increase friendly feeling, strengthen ties, and create a good impression. Thus, no doubt, it is designed that the CZAR should, in some sort, play to the gallery in Paris, and it will assuredly be a very easy matter to do so. Great preparations, we are informed, have been made in that gay city, which will put on her brightest aspect and do all that is possible to make the imperial visitors feel welcome. Their Majesties will only have to look pleasant, be gracious to President FAURE, and express their gratification with what has been done to entertain them, and all France will be delighted. But their visit will have no political significance. The Russian Press, responsive to the fulsome eulogies of the Paris journals, will no doubt declare that the visit is an additional proof of the perfect understanding existing between the French Republic and the Russian Empire; but all the talk will mean very little. When the CZAR was in England he had a long conference with Lord SALISBURY and the Russian Press advocated an *entente* between Russian and England; but it does not follow that the two Powers are about to enter into an alliance because of these somewhat suggestive events. For our part we should be glad to see an understanding between England and Russia, at any rate so far as their interests in Asia are concerned, but the policy of the British Government is, if we mistake not, to keep clear of all entangling alliances. This may be the most dignified policy, but when there is so much rancorous ill will shown to Great Britain all round, it is surely better policy to secure as a friend the one from whom we want nothing and to whom our friendship ought to be invaluable. The time has quite gone by for the policy of endeavouring to confine Russia to ice-bound regions and limit her expansion. Russia, like Great Britain, has her mission; and of late years she has been steadily

endeavouring to fulfil it. Her civilising influence has been felt through the Khanates of Central Asia, and she has recently been opening up the Amoor territory to settlement by means of the great Trans-Siberian Railway, which when completed will give means of speedy access to an undeveloped country for Russian and Siberian settlers. The advance guard of these have been convicts, it is true, but many of our own now prosperous colonies were first settled by those means, and there is no reason why the Manchurian territory of Russia should not grow rapidly into prosperity when the railway connects it with the Western world. In order, however, to encourage the growth of trade as well as of passenger traffic the Russian authorities will do well to adopt a liberal tariff at their Pacific ports, which at no distant date will include one that will remain unfrozen throughout the year. One of our Shanghai contemporaries publishes a short but alarmist note anent the appearance of some Russian engineers and surveyors at Port Arthur. They arrived, it is stated, overland via Kinchow, perfectly equipped for a comprehensive survey of the district. A Japanese party also arrived soon after, and both were provided with passports, which were politely presented to General SUNG, who is in command at the famous arsenal. So far, it is a mere record of a reputed fact, but our contemporary then proceeds to remark:—"This curious development, coupled with the fact that some 100,000 Russian troops are around Vladivostock, as well as the enormous increase in the number of Russia's warships in the Far East, and the heavy addition to the British fleet, shows most conclusively that sooner or later the bomb will burst over the Far East, and the explosion bids fair to be a mighty one." The "development" is not a curious one when regarded in the light of other recent events. Russia came to the help of China to save for her the Liaotung Peninsula, and it is understood that, in return, Russia will be allowed to carry the Trans-Siberian Railway to some point in that peninsula or elsewhere open all through the winter. The surveying party have, it is evident, arrived to claim the right so gained, and they will be allowed to survey the country for the best route for the line to take. Whether the Japanese are there by invitation to be satisfied of the *bona fides* of the Russians in the matter we are of course unable to say. But we deprecate the getting up of sensations without reason. The Russians had long foreseen opposition to their desire to secure an unfrozen port for the terminus of their great railway, alike from England, China, and Japan. The former has, however, stepped aside, China has been adroitly laid under obligation, and Japan has been warned off by the big fleet and large force of troops collected at Vladivostock. Russia does not mean fighting if she can possibly get her way without. And there is reason to believe that she will win it without active opposition. The understanding between Russia and England is, if not so demonstrable, probably just as clear as that with France. If this were not the case, we should inevitably be drifting into a war for which, spite of our largely increased squadron, we are still quite unprepared. It will serve no useful end therefore for English journals to be perpetually discovering so-called alarmist circumstances and to urge the revival of old distrusts. Russia and England have got to be friends in the Far East, or both will have to pay dearly for the want of a proper understanding.

THE CABLE COMPANIES AND THE PROPOSED PACIFIC CABLE.

The Editor of the *China Gazette* claims that if there is one subject outside newspaper work that he thinks he knows a little about, it is the subject of telegraphic communications "in this part of the world and the extraordinary and fascinating story of how Sir JOHN PENDER, in London, and his Danish colleagues, in Copenhagen, have established themselves in an absolutely impregnable position by secret and open treaties, conventions, and other means in China and Japan, thereby monopolizing the vast and amazingly profitable traffic between the West and the Far East for a period that will carry them safely beyond our time." When a man boasts that he possesses great knowledge and at the same time elects to keep it to himself doubts naturally arise as to whether the boast is justified by the facts. If our contemporary really knows more than other people on the subject he would be rendering a public service, at a juncture like the present, by telling all he knows, while, on the other hand, by keeping it to himself he is failing to take advantage of an opportunity of earning credit for his newspaper and neglecting his duty to his readers, who are entitled to expect from him the best he can give them. In his article of the 30th September, in which he deals with the discussion of the subject by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, he fails to display any special knowledge; on the contrary he is considerably at sea on the most elementary facts and principles. He says:—"Our Hongkong friends are also mistaken if they anticipate that the enormous reserve of the two Companies, reaching nearly two millions sterling, is to be used to fight opposition. We have the best reason for saying that this money is laid by to provide against competition not to combat it. The Chairman of the Hongkong Chamber spoke in prophetic vein, though he may not have known it, when he said that the Pacific cable would be laid before the next century gets into its teens. Quite so. But by whom? Would our Hongkong friends like to bind themselves by solemn compact to support the Pacific cable? We rather fancy they will be somewhat staggered to be told that the Pacific cable, when it comes, which we are afraid will be all too soon, will only increase their burdens, for it will be built at the expense of the supporters of the present monopolists. It is for the laying of the Pacific cable that the reserve fund of the two Companies is being built up. We have formerly said it would take nine millions of gold dollars to provide the cable from China via Japan, Honolulu, Fanning Island, to some point on the Pacific coast of North America. This is about the sum that the Cable Companies' reserve now represents. In all probability by the time that reserve reaches ten million dollars, or two millions sterling, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce will have the pleasure of an alternative route via America, but it will be owned and manipulated by the same ring, who at present control all telegraphic connections in this part of the globe, and we need not expect, in the face of such an enormous outlay to provide against competition, that we will get any reduction in present telegraphic rates. It will rather lead to a rise all round, while the public benefit of an alternative route can be pleaded as an offset by the Cable Companies." This is obviously a mere shot at random and it has struck in

quite an opposite direction to that in which the mark lies. It was only the other day that the same writer informed us that the Eastern Extension, the Great Northern, and the Chinese Telegraph Administration formed a solid combination against any scheme that the next fifteen years may bring forth for connecting China and America by means of a cable. He tells us now that this very cable is to be laid by two of the three members of the combination against it. We may be assured that there has been no such sudden change in the policy of the Companies, and that our contemporary both in his earlier and later writings has been dependent upon his imagination for his statements and arguments rather than upon any real knowledge of facts.

The statement that the Eastern Extension and Great Northern are going to lay a cable across the Pacific as a buttress to their present monopoly is absurd on the face of it. Possibly they might like to do so on their own terms, but if they engaged in the work it would have to be under conditions which would make the new line a competing line, and business concerns do not usually set up in opposition to themselves. The existing lines are adequate to any growth of traffic that is likely to take place for many years to come, and the only reason for desiring a Pacific cable is to secure cheaper rates by competition. Now, even assuming that the Eastern Extension and the Great Northern were desirous of laying a cable across the Pacific, whether under their own names or in a different combination, they would have to enter into agreements with the Government of the United States or of Canada on the one side and the Government of Japan on the other for the landing of the shore ends, and none of these Governments, we may be assured, would agree to such exorbitant terms as are enjoyed by the Companies under existing conditions. To Japan, with her growing commerce, cheap telegraphy has become of great importance; she has had experience of the tyranny of the present Companies and is not likely to put her neck under their yoke again. As to the United States and Canada, we think they may be relied upon not to make an altogether foolish bargain. Then, again, the cable to Japan might be worked in conjunction with the proposed cable from Canada to Australia, connection being made at Honolulu; and the Australian Governments are opposed to the existing monopoly. It is doubtful, indeed, whether the Australian line will be a Company affair at all, the probability being that it will be laid as a Government line to be worked exclusively in the public interest. In the same way Japan might lay a cable as far as Honolulu as a Government undertaking on terms to be arranged with the Hawaiian Government. This, of course, is merely speculation, but it serves at least to show that telegraphic connections across the Pacific cannot be monopolised by the Eastern Extension and the Great Northern at their own will and on their own terms. As to the connection between Japan and China, the *China Gazette* says the Great Northern's monopoly under its agreement with Japan has still fifteen years to run and that nothing can be done before the expiration of that time. We think there is a mistake as regards the time mentioned, and that the monopoly will expire in 1902, but as our Shanghai contemporary professes to be in possession of full information on the entire subject we would suggest to him that he would really render a great public service if he would publish not only the "fascinating story" to which he refers, but also a plain

business-like synopsis of all the agreements in force, giving the dates of their conclusion, their stipulated duration, and their principal terms, for unfortunately these agreements are not always published officially and are therefore not readily accessible.

ANTI-CHINESE AND JAPANESE MOVEMENT IN CANADA.

A section of the residents of British Columbia are petitioning the legislature for measures to prevent the influx of Chinese and Japanese labourers. The petitions with reference to the two nationalities are separate and distinct, but the principal objection is the same in both, namely, that owing to the lower standard of living Asiatic labourers can accept lower wages than white men and that they are therefore a serious menace to the prosperity and material welfare of the country. In the case of the Chinese it is also urged that they are non-assimilative and have no intention of settled citizenship; and that they are, in moral, social, and sanitary status, usually below the most inferior standard of Western life. In the case of the Japanese no objection is urged against them on moral, social, or sanitary grounds, and whereas it is alleged that the Chinese are non-assimilative it would seem that the Japanese are considered too assimilative, since the petition against them prays that the facility with which they can be naturalised may be reduced. The total exclusion of the Chinese is asked for, and this it is thought might be effected by raising the poll tax from \$50 to \$500, but in the case of the Japanese the only request is that the present term of three years' residence in the Dominion, requisite as a condition of naturalization, be lengthened (in the case of Japanese) to five years; and that such further and other restrictions be imposed on the immigration of Japanese into Canada as Parliament may deem fit.

There has been during the last few years a great growth in the trade across the Pacific, between America and Asia, and if no undue restrictions are imposed this growth will continue at an increasing ratio, but it must necessarily be retarded by any limitations placed upon intercourse. As to the alleged cheapness of Asiatic labour, the ground upon which the proposed limitations are asked for, the petitioners might study with advantage the report on labour in Japan compiled by the United States Consul at Kobe. There has during the last three years been an increase in the price of labour in Japan varying from twenty-five to two hundred per cent., and though the rates are still low as compared with those ruling in America Mr. CONNELLY is of opinion that there is no possibility of the labour of Japan being utilised to the detriment of American industries. In the first place, he anticipates that the extension of manufacturing industry in Japan will lead to legislation for the control of labour, including the prohibition of child labour, and this will necessarily raise the rate of wages. The amount of skilled labour in Japan is also so small that "artizans are able to effect an increase in their wages more rapidly than anywhere else in the world, and Count OKUMA SHIGENOBU, the late Minister of Finance, is quoted by Mr. CONNELLY as saying that "Labour here will soon become 'without doubt as costly as that of the West, if not more costly.'" Mr. CONNELLY also reminds us that the producing power of Japanese labour as compared with that of other nations is an important factor in the labour problem of Japan, and after

referring to the Japanese habit of resting at frequent intervals to smoke, chat, or drink tea, says he thinks it is no exaggeration to say that "the American labourer produces 'more in three hours than this Japanese fellow workman does in what is called a 'day's work.'"

The relative efficiency of Asiatic and Caucasian labour is, of course, a very debatable subject, not to be lightly decided upon the opinion of a single observer. The Japanese habit of resting at frequent and irregular periods will be overcome as labour becomes more fully organised and that the people are capable of sustained physical exertion no one who has made a long ricksha journey in Japan or observed the coal coolies at work can entertain any doubt. We are inclined to think, therefore, that the defect pointed out by Mr. CONNELLY is one destined very soon to disappear and that the efficiency of Japanese labour, as regards the amount of work performed in a given time, will soon approach that of Western labour. It is certain, however, that in proportion as that process takes place, or even more rapidly, wages will advance and that the present disparity in the earnings of the working man in Japan and his fellow workman in Europe or America will tend to disappear. And as the rate of wages in Japan ascends the inducement to emigrate will be proportionately reduced; and, moreover, there is no great surplus population in Japan for which an outlet has to be sought by emigration. In countries where labour is scarce and wages consequently abnormally high, Japanese will no doubt be found in varying numbers, but their presence will prove an advantage. The British Columbian petitioners speak of "the comparatively small adult male 'white population' of the province, and that being the case, and there not being sufficient white men to carry on the fisheries and the market gardening, the presence of Japanese to engage in these industries should be considered valuable rather than the reverse."

THE SANITARY BOARD'S NEW BY-LAWS.

The report of the proceedings at the last meeting of the Sanitary Board merits careful perusal and study. The Board has adopted a set of new by-laws, one of which is intended to deprive householders of any legal rights, *vis-a-vis* the Sanitary Board, in respect of any partitions, screens, cocklofts, or other wooden fixtures in their houses. The members of the Board are not all agreed, as between themselves, how the extraordinary powers they desire to possess should be exercised, but they are all agreed that in some way or other they should be able to do what they like without incurring the risk of being sued in the Supreme Court and cast in damages. The Captain Superintendent of Police says that "The Board would 'never give such power to the foreman of a 'gang,' whereas Dr. CLARK says that "If the 'Medical Officer of Health has to go round 'and give sanction in each case you would 'have to employ six Medical Officers of 'Health;' and the President says that "Somebody must have the power to do this." So the upshot of the matter is that the Legislative Council is to be asked to sanction by-laws authorising the total destruction of the internal fittings of houses without knowing by whom the power is to be exercised. The Captain Superintendent of Police says the Board must take all the responsibility; whereas the real object of the proposed by-

law is to relieve the Board of responsibility (in the sense of accountability) and to let that body and its officers do what they please without the necessity of holding the fear of the law before their eyes. We will be much surprised if the Legislative Council is found ready to meet the views of the Sanitary Board in that respect. It was pointed out in a previous article that if the Board and its officers do their duty steadily and continuously there ought to be no necessity for the tearing down and burning of cocklofts in a panic whenever an epidemic happens to make its appearance. The character and extent of the fixtures that may be put up in houses are strictly regulated by law, and it is the business of the Board to see that the requirements of the law in that respect are complied with. The law also requires that every house shall be cleansed and whitewashed twice a year. If compliance with that law is enforced there ought to be no irremediably filthy cocklofts in existence. Full power of inspection exists for ascertaining the condition of the houses, and what is required is that cleanliness shall be permanently observed in the colony, not that things shall be allowed to drift into the old groove and that we shall have an absurd crusade of pulling down and burning whenever an epidemic breaks out.

There are other points in the proposed new by-laws that require attention and that seem to show how incompetent the Sanitary Board as at present constituted is for the discharge of its important duties. A number of the by-laws are to be in operation permanently, and then comes a note to the effect that "The following by-laws are only to be enforced during the prevalence, to the extent of an epidemic, of any contagious or infectious disease in the colony or in any specified district thereof." The first by-law following this note provides that during the prevalence of an epidemic "all latrines and all receptacles for excremental matter shall be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected." To any ordinary person it would seem desirable that such places should be cleansed regularly all the year round and disinfected either daily or at frequent intervals, but the wise men of the Sanitary Board say it is only necessary that this should be done when an epidemic prevails. The reader will probably say that that cannot have been the intention of the Board, that it is obviously a simple error in drafting. That no doubt is correct, but it does not say much for the scrutiny the members of the Board have given to the by-laws that none of them detected the error. It is a curious coincidence, too, that at the same meeting at which this by-law providing that latrines need only be kept clean and disinfected in times of epidemic was passed the Board also resolved to discontinue the use of chloride of lime in the latrines. Whether chloride of lime when used in latrines possesses any efficacy as a preventive of the propagation of plague may be considered a technical question on which a layman has no right to offer an opinion, but as it was used throughout the recent epidemic and has continued in use up to the present presumably the Board is of opinion it does possess such efficacy. If that be so it seems the height of foolhardiness to discontinue its use. We are at present enjoying the autumnal lull of the plague; whether the disease will break out again in the spring or not no one can say, but that there is very great danger of its doing so everyone will admit. No preventive measures therefore should be neglected. To wait until the disease makes its reappearance and then resume the use of disinfectants, the

continuous use of which might have prevented the disease altogether, is quite on a par with the folly of tearing down and burning the internal fittings of houses that ought never to be allowed to get into such a condition as to require tearing down and burning. If chloride of lime is of no use then the Sanitary Board has been wasting public money for many months past; on the other hand, if the article is of use, its employment ought certainly not to be discontinued at the present critical juncture, when every nerve ought to be strained to prevent the recurrence of plague.

THE UNDERMANNING OF THE COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

As we remarked in a previous article the autumnal lull in the attacks of plague which is now with us should be utilized in preparing in every way to meet the threatened spring outbreak so characteristic of this disorder. An opportunity now exists for the Colonial Surgeon to put forward his application for the employment of a perfectly qualified medical man for the plague and infectious hospitals of the colony. It seems strange that during the recent outbreak of 1896 the medical care of the plague patients devolved on a German Naval doctor lent from a German warship cruising on the coast. Such a condition of affairs is to say the least extraordinary in an English colony, and time now admits of better arrangements being made for the future. A specially qualified medical man should be obtained from England, who, in addition to his duty at the hospitals, would be able to conduct the bacteriological work so needful in modern hygiene, and also conduct experiments as to the treatment proposed by Dr. YERSIN. When not so employed this medical man should be an Assistant Health Officer working under Dr. CLARK and able in case of necessity to carry on his work. To-day with a much undermanned colonial medical service there is absolutely no one to take up Dr. CLARK's duty in case of leave or illness. This calls for early remedy. Let the Colonial Surgeon look to it.

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

(13th October.)

The threatened typhoon has on this occasion happily given Hongkong the go-by, and we may now consider the typhoon season at an end. On the whole the system of storm warnings has during the past season worked satisfactorily, but a mistake was evidently made on Sunday in firing the gun, indicating that a gale was to be expected in the colony, because the gale did not come, the typhoon having apparently recurved and gone off in some other direction. We do not know that any general fault is to be found with the Observatory forecasts in relation to this storm, because the recurving of typhoons is an unknown quantity and cannot be taken into account, but the experience gained on this occasion goes to show the error of firing the gun too prematurely. We are told in the notes on the Hongkong Observatory meteorological signals and storms warnings that the signals hoisted at the masthead are for the information of masters of vessels leaving the port and do not imply that bad weather is expected here, the colony itself being warned of approaching typhoons by means of the typhoon gun. As a matter of fact, however, when the black signals are hoisted, signifying that the typhoon is within three hundred miles of the colony, bad weather locally is usually

looked for, and the firing of the gun has generally been taken as indicative of its near approach, say within two or three hours. To fire the gun twenty-four hours before there is any likelihood of the expected gale breaking, and when there is still a chance that the storm may pass us by altogether, results in a good deal of practical inconvenience. The small craft immediately clear off to places of safety and business afloat is either stopped or greatly impeded by the want of the usual facilities, while on shore preparations for the expected blow are made hours before there is any occasion for them. It may be urged that if a blow is at all likely to come it is better that the warning should be given too soon than too late, and that it is well to afford as much time as possible for preparation. The reply to that is that the hoisting of the black cone or drum ought to be taken as indicating the likelihood of bad weather, and the firing of the gun as indicating its certainty and imminence. At present there appears to be some confusion on this point, which it would be desirable to remove. If the gun is to be taken as having no more value than the black signals, but simply as calling attention to them, the public ought officially to be given to understand that such is the case; but it seems to us it would be better to reserve it as a signal that the storm is close at hand. In last week's typhoon the firing of the gun might with advantage have been deferred for several hours, and in the last one it would have been better if it had not been fired at all.

ANOTHER MAN-OF-WAR'S BOAT CAPSIZED.

AN OFFICER DROWNED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
SHANGHAI, 9th October.

The Grafton's boat capsized at Sivouth, Korea.

Mr. Troughton, Secretary to Rear-Admiral Oxley, was drowned.

MR. DUDGEON'S MISSION A FAILURE.

THE COMMISSIONER LEAVES PEKING.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
SHANGHAI, 9th October.

Mr. Dudgeon has left Peking. It is feared his mission has proved a failure.

[Mr. Dudgeon went to Peking to lay before the Ministers the views of the Shanghai mercantile community with reference to the proposed taxation of local manufactures and the revision of the tariff.]

SUPREME COURT.

9th October.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS LIMITED, v. CHEUNG YAU TO AND OTHERS.
The plaintiffs sought to recover \$100,000, a debt due on a bond.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. and Hon. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. W. V. Drummond and Hon. Ho Kai (instructed by Mr. Dennys) appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Francis first of all mentioned that the Acting Attorney-General had waived his precedence and had allowed him (Mr. Francis) to conduct the case. He also mentioned that the case had been for two days before Sir

Fielding Clarke, when it was adjourned *sine die*. The question now arose, whether the case should go on from the point it left off and his Lordship rely upon Sir Fielding Clarke's notes of the evidence, or whether there should be a complete re-hearing. Counsel on both sides had agreed that it would save time if the case was entirely re-opened.

His Lordship agreed that it would be more convenient to take the case *de novo* and regretted that through the change of the presiding judge counsel should be put to so much trouble.

Mr. Francis then said this was an action on a bond. The real plaintiffs were the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, but they were suing in the name of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, who were the plaintiffs on the record. The action was one against a guarantor on his agreement to guarantee and on his bond and the sum claimed was \$100,000. The plaintiff Company was originally a Trust and Loan Company and it was subsequently converted into a bank and the name changed to the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, and it commenced to do all the ordinary business of a banking company. In August, 1891, Cheung Kung Sing became compradore to the Bank and his brother Cheung Kai agreed to become security for the due performance by Cheung Kung Sing of his duties as compradore. In February, 1892, Mr. Inghald who had charge of the Bank, decided to purchase a number of Chinese bills on Shanghai. Between February 26th and March 24th in that year a number of Chinese bills were purchased by the Bank through the compradore and there was paid in Mexican dollars in Hongkong for the purchase of the bills the sum of \$261,606. In addition to those bills—there were eleven altogether—an advance was made to a Chinese bank here, also through the compradore, for the sum of \$10,000; so that the total amount disbursed by the Bank between the 26th February and 24th March was \$271,606. The bills were sent to Shanghai for payment, but before the date for payment arrived there was, on the 27th March, 1892, a tremendous financial crisis in Hongkong, followed by a similar crisis in Shanghai, among Chinese banks and firms, and the result was that the whole of the eleven bills drawn on Shanghai were dishonoured and returned to Hongkong. The first bill was drawn directly in favour of the Bank, but as soon as Mr. Inghald's attention was called to it he directed that the compradore, who was actually a party to all the other bills, should also be a party to this one. Only one of the bills was at a subsequent time taken up and paid off. The promissory note for \$10,000 was also presented to the firm who issued it for payment, but the firm was unable to pay. Counsel did not think it would be disputed that immediately on the failure of the parties to take up the bills and pay for them the compradore was undoubtedly on his agreement and bond liable to pay the whole of the amounts to the plaintiff Bank. On the 30th March Mr. Inghald wrote to Cheung Kung Sing stating that he held him responsible for the whole amount due on the bills and promissory notes. In reply the compradore sent promissory notes of the value of \$71,800 made out in favour of the Bank by responsible Chinese firms. He hoped the Bank would not press him too much. He remained at the Bank up to the end of September, 1894. At that time the plaintiff Bank went into liquidation and his services were then with the liquidator or with the new Bank. From the 27th March, 1892, up to September, 1894, the adjustment of the accounts between the compradore and the Bank was going on gradually and slowly. A separate account was opened against the compradore and he was debited with the total amount of his liabilities and on the other side he received credit for all money he paid in and for all sums realised to his credit, Cheung Kai, the surety, being fully cognisant of what was going on. But in January, 1894, Cheung Kai died. Probate of his will was issued to the defendants in this suit and a writ was taken out against them claiming \$100,000. The primary issue in the suit was in what amount was Cheung Kung Sing indebted as compradore to the plaintiff Bank at the time of the issue of the writ. The plaintiffs con-

tended that the sum was over \$100,000. Mr. Francis then dealt with the various accounts and read the pleadings and answer.

Counsel's statement occupied the whole day and at the conclusion the Court adjourned.

The case is still proceeding.

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The second transport, the *Montserrat*, arrived at Manila on the 6th October from Spain with over a thousand soldiers. The arrival of the troops has been made the occasion of great rejoicing. The rebels still hold their own in the province of Cavite, and the bombardment of their positions by the Spanish men-of-war is kept up continuously. No doubt is entertained that with the reinforcements arriving the Government will soon be able to place a sufficient force in the field to drive the rebels into the hills. Meanwhile occasional conflicts occur, but with no decisive result.

We publish below a translation of a letter which appears in the *Extremo Oriente*, professing to give the truth concerning the rebellion in the Philippines. The letter does not contain much that is new, and as it makes no mention of such a striking incident as the celebrated Black Hole it cannot be taken as giving the whole truth. Nevertheless, as it takes exception to the reports that have appeared in the English papers, and as our only desire is to give as full and accurate information in relation to the rebellion as possible, we deem it well to reproduce the letter, although it will be noted that it contains nothing inconsistent with what has already appeared in our own columns. The letter is as follows:—

Manila, 28th September.

Echoing the just indignation produced amongst Spaniards by some articles published by the English journals concerning the rising of the natives here, I propose in these few badly written lines to set out the truth of what has happened, not only with the object of reassuring those who have relatives and friends here, but also to show to our brethren that we are able to sympathise with them and that we are enemies of all lies, falsehood, and treason.

For some time there had been rumours of a conspiracy amongst the natives and Chinese half-castes against the Spaniards, but no one took any notice of them, as they were believed to be unfounded. The conspiracy had, however, attained large proportions, by means of societies called "Katipunan," aided and directed by Chinese half-castes and rich natives. One of these societies was discovered last month by the Rev. Father Mariano Gil, parish priest of the suburb of Tondo, who communicated the facts to the authorities. The authorities, with praiseworthy energy and prudence, commenced to arrest the members of the society in question and to make inquiries concerning the existence of others, and the whole thing was discovered. The plan of the rebels, as I have heard from persons who know, was very determined, but impracticable. The idea, it is believed, was to declare themselves independent of Spain, and to secure this it was proposed to murder all the Spaniards and foreigners resident here.

As they had neither sufficient intelligence nor arms they applied to Japan. The Government of the Empire of the Rising Sun (and of a rising civilization) acted correctly in the matter and handed to the Spanish Minister an extensively signed petition that had been presented to it by a commission of rebels.

A few days after the discovery made by Father Gil, on the 25th August, the natives began to commit outrages in the town of Calocan, in this province, murdering some Chinese and investing the Civil Guard.

The rebels formed various groups numbering altogether five hundred men, more or less, without organisation and carrying but few firearms. Two hundred soldiers of the infantry, fifty cavalry, a party of one hundred and seven men from the cruiser *Castilla* armed with Maussér rifles, and a section of the Civil Guard were sent against them and dispersed them, many of the rebels being left dead on the field, while some were taken prisoners. Further troops were after-

wards sent in pursuit of the rebels, who were seeking hiding places in other towns.

On the 30th the following provinces were declared under martial law:—Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, La Laguna, Cavite, and Batangas. On the same day the troops had an encounter with the rebels at San Juan del Monte, near the city. The troops lost several men, but the rebels were totally routed and some forty prisoners were taken. Four of them have already been shot.

A few days after this affair a friend meeting me asked, "Are you in mourning for some relative?" "None of my family have died," I replied, "but I very much fear my washerman is dead, as he has not let me have any clean clothes for some days, so I am compelled to wear cloth, no matter how hot it is." The same thing happened to many other people, San Juan del Monte being a village occupied almost exclusively by washermen.

Another comic incident. At Santopan, where the pumping station of the waterworks is situated, the staff, which included an Englishman, were compelled by the natives, under threat of death, to shave their beards off. As they were not strong enough to resist they had no alternative but to obey. As the natives have no beards themselves they take offence at others, like the Spaniards, wearing them, and compel them to shave. So at least it seems.

In the province of Cavite the rebellion broke out in the towns of San Francisco, Malabon, and Noveleta, and the captain and lieutenant of the Civil Guard stationed there fell victims to the performance of their duty. The movement extended to other towns and villages in the same province, that is to say, Old Cavite, Naic, Bacoor, and Imus. In the last named place, where it is said the insurgents are in great force, they have established themselves on an estate belonging to the Recoletos Fathers, several of whom have fallen victims to their brutality. At the capital of the province, Cavite, including the marine arsenal, the population found themselves well defended by the land and sea forces up to Porta Vaga, the isthmus, where there is a strong fort. In the city thirteen rebels have been shot. The villages near the sea have been bombarded and now the reinforcements asked for from Spain are awaited to deal the enemy a decisive blow.

[Reference is then made to the number of troops expected.]

With the patriotism characteristic of the Iberian race a battalion of Loyal Volunteers of Manila was formed for the defence of the capital. Other acts of generosity and patriotism on the part of the religious orders, proprietors, merchants, manufacturers, journalists, and others are also worthy of mention, such as gifts of wine, hams, sausages, cigars, etc., to the troops. Various subscriptions have also been opened for the benefit of the families of the heroes who have fallen in defence of the integrity of the country.

The gaols are full to overflowing, and on the majority of the prisoners are found the marks of the blood compact, made on the arms and the legs. New gaols are being opened daily. Some two hundred prisoners have been sent to the Caroline Islands. Many rebels are presenting themselves to the Government suing for pardon.

The Chinese, frightened by the outrages to which their countrymen have been subjected in Calocan, Cavite, and other parts invaded by the insurgents, are returning to their own country.

In the provinces of Batangas, Nueva Ecija, and La Laguna there have also been risings, but they were immediately suppressed by the troops.

Manila is quiet and there is no reason to fear the rebels will come here, notwithstanding their threats, for it is well guarded.

If the Governor-General has not used greater rigour with these people it is on account of his prudence and his exquisite tact, but their barbarous and savage acts well merit an exemplary punishment that shall live in the remembrance of their posterity. The confiscation of the property of the rebels has been wisely decreed to cover the necessary expenses of the extinction of the rebellion.

All persons of common sense must sincerely desire that Spain may for many years preserve

the possession of this rich archipelago, for the good of humanity, civilisation, and our holy religion.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 8th October. Hon. F. A. Cooper, (Director of Public Works) presided and there were also present—Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE NEW BY-LAWS.

The PRESIDENT brought forward the new by-laws made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894.

Mr. EDE asked, in reference to by-law 36, whether "the officers of the Sanitary Board duly authorised in writing" would be so authorised in each individual case to act according to the power given to them by the by-law. He thought the officers ought not to have so much power, but that it should be confined to the Secretary or the Medical Officer of Health.

The PRESIDENT said it would rest with the Board when the time arrived as to what officers would be authorised. The Board would be guided by the circumstances at the time. It was considered by the members of the Board that if there was an epidemic of plague it was necessary to place those powers in the hands of somebody.

Mr. EDE said that an officer would have power to destroy almost any woodwork in a man's house if he considered the removal necessary for the public health.

The PRESIDENT—Not unless the Board gives him power in writing.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—The Board would never give such power to the foreman of a gang.

Mr. EDE—The foreman of a gang did it lately.

The PRESIDENT—Acting under the instructions of the Board.

Mr. EDE—No, I do not think so.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said the Board must take all responsibility. Everything would depend on the nature of the work to be done.

Mr. EDE—I understand there is likely to be some opposition in regard to this, and it would be well to be clear on the point.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I do not know whether you would rather put it—"Any officer of the Sanitary Board specially authorised."

Mr. EDE—In the previous by-laws it was laid down that authority in writing must be given in each specific case.

The PRESIDENT—In ordinary circumstances; these are extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. EDE did not think the officers should have general authority to go round and do as they thought fit.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—If the Medical Officer of Health has to go round and give sanction in each case you would have to employ six Medical Officers of Health. There were sometimes between a hundred and two hundred cases a day; each gang had several floors and there were nine or ten gangs working.

The PRESIDENT—Somebody must have the power to do this.

Mr. EDE—What I say is that the power should not be given to subordinate officers.

Mr. EDE was then understood to allow his objection to fall.

The PRESIDENT then moved that the by-laws be sent to the Colonial Secretary with the request that they be submitted to the Legislative Council for approval.

CARRIED.

It was also resolved to forward to the Colonial Secretary a memorandum which had been drawn up by the Medical Officer drawing the attention of the Board to the conditions under which officers of the Board might enter premises.

THE COLLECTION OF NIGHT SOIL.

The Secretary wrote the following minute with reference to the recent strike amongst nightmen.

During the recent strike of the nightmen it became necessary to try and find men to take the place of those on strike. One of the men whom I thought would be likely to be able to supply such men as was required was at once communicated with and he submitted to me the following proposal, viz:—

(1) Allow the strikers to resume work unconditionally.

(2) Enter into a contract with him for a period of five years on the following terms, viz:—

(a) That he would provide a sufficient number of men to do the work in the same manner as it is being done at present, with the exception that his men would be registered and that they would use buckets of the required pattern.

(b) That he would pay a fee of \$2,000 for the five years' contract.

(c) That he would be permitted to make the following charges, viz:—

(1) Chinese tenement houses, 13 cents per pot, i.e. per family per month.

(2) Chinese shops, under a monthly rental of \$50, 30 cents per month.

(3) Chinese shops of a monthly rental of \$50 and under \$100, 60 cents.

(4) Chinese shops of a monthly rental of \$100 and upwards, \$1.

(5) European houses, a morning attendance only, \$2.

(6) European houses, a day and a morning attendance, \$3.

(7) Large institutions, for each nightman required, \$7.50.

(8) Each nightman would be secured to the extent of \$50.

(9) The contractor to supply buckets, etc., at his own cost.

Ten days or a fortnight was required to make the necessary arrangements. Inasmuch as what was really required was an immediate start of work, this proposal was not then paid much attention to, but now that the strike is ended, I certainly think the matter is one which deserves serious consideration by the Board. If such be possible, there can be no question but it is desirable to make such arrangements as will effectually prevent a repetition of the very serious inconvenience to which practically every ratepayer in Victoria was recently put, to say nothing of the danger to the public health of the colony. It would be a comparatively easy matter to draw up a contract on the lines set forth in the proposal which has been made, and there are of course many things to be said in favour of such an arrangement.

To my mind, the chief objection to it would be that the contractor would be entitled to collect fees from householders, not as a matter of arrangement between the householder and the contractor, but as a matter of right by the latter under the terms of his contract. I therefore think a much more preferable plan would be to enter into a contract to carry out this work and levy such a rate as will meet the cost of doing the work. This rate would, as a matter of course, be collected at the same time as other rates, so that for all practical purposes the cost of collection would be nothing.

If the work was done in a systematic manner by a contractor I think some 400 men would be sufficient. This would mean a monthly outlay of close on \$3,000 or, as a rough approximation, \$35,000 a year. A rate of 1 1/2 per cent. would yield \$37,750 a year, which would give a surplus of \$2,750 for contingencies, a sum which I do not think is too much for such a purpose in what would be practically a new undertaking. As a matter of fact, the present conservancy contractor pays \$28,440 a year for his contract, so that in reality for the conservancy of the city on the lines indicated above an additional \$7,000 a year would cover the cost thereof.

No doubt any increase to the rates will be met by adverse criticism in the usual way with British subjects, but in this case the increase would only be an apparent increase inasmuch as an equal if not a higher rate is now being paid as a part of the household monthly expenditure for servants.

Apart altogether from the question of cost is the important question of an efficient organisation of doing the required work. This I submit can only be attained by the plan I have recommended or some modification of it.

The following minutes were attached.

Mr. EDE—I am not in favour of the proposal. I think it is better to let the householder make his own arrangements as at present, subject to the registration of the coolies and the use of a proper bucket.

The Medical Officer of Health—It would certainly be more economical for the Board to arrange for this work to be done by contract for at the rate estimated. It would mean a saving of 1 per cent. per annum on the rental at least, comparing it with what is paid now by householders to these private coolies. The work would also be more efficiently done, but I do not see that we should be guaranteed against strikes, as they are just as likely to occur among the contractor's coolies as among private coolies.

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—

I agree with Mr. Ede.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—

I am not in favour of that proposal. The Chinese like to make arrangements with men they know. After all it is a good deal of licence to give to coolies. Unless you are sure of the men you may let in thieves or they may become thieves.

Mr. EDE—I think people can make their own arrangements more conveniently. All we have to do is to insist upon registration.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I do not think the time is opportune for a change of that sort.

The PRESIDENT—This matter has been brought before the Board very strikingly during the last week or so. It is quite true that householders have made arrangements for the removal of nightsoil from their houses, with the exception of the Peak, where it has been done for some years past by contract.

But recently a strike occurred amongst those coolies employed by householders and I do not think that the removal of nightsoil by contract would be in the least distasteful to the community in general; in fact I understand that some of them are in favour of it.

The duty of the removal of nightsoil in most European cities and towns devolves upon municipal authorities and I think it is clearly the duty of the Sanitary Board to see that the nightsoil is removed from premises.

There is sometimes a difficulty now in getting the soil removed, and I have reason to believe that in many cases it is removed only once in two days.

In some offers of prices we received there were prices for removing once in two days, showing clearly that once in two days is considered quite sufficient.

There are many persons—two or three have applied to me—who are willing to do the work by contract, and to have one man to deal with would be very much better than dealing with 400 coolies as is the case at present.

I think myself that if a contract was entered into with one responsible person who would be bound in sufficient securities, the experiment would be a great success.

At the present time if a strike occurs we are practically helpless. I know that in one instance 159 tons of nightsoil were removed and such a state of things is not satisfactory, especially in the hot weather.

I therefore move that the Secretary, in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health, be instructed to prepare specifications with a view to obtaining tenders for the removal of nightsoil from the city of Victoria.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I second that. I think it would be a good thing to have the information before us because, as is not unlikely, we find it impossible to bring these private coolies to terms.

The Board has of course no other option than to take the action prescribed. My own opinion is that it would be better to bring the present coolies to terms.

I have already indicated my reasons for saying that such a course is desirable, but I agree with you that if we cannot bring them to terms or having brought them to terms they do not carry out the conditions of their licence, such as the daily removal of nightsoil, then this private coolie system should be abandoned and some such system as you have described should be gone in for.

We all know that recently such a thing as the removal of nightsoil once in five days was not at all uncommon.

THE COLONIAL SURGEON.—In 1874 I know that once a week was a quite common thing. The resolution was carried.

THE COST OF CHLORIDE OF LIME IN THE MEDICAL OFFICE.—The Medical Officer of Health wrote stating that 6,000 lbs. of chlorinated lime had been supplied to the latrines during the month of September and he was of opinion that there was no necessity for its continuance.

The Secretary, in a minute, said that \$2,000 worth of lime had been used during the last two months. If it was decided to continue the expenditure of public money another \$1,500 would be required for the current year and something like \$7,000 in 1897.

It was resolved to discontinue the use of the lime at present.

MORTALITY RETURNS.
For the week ended 25th September the death rate was 20 as against 21.7 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 3rd October the rate was 21.8 as against 31.2.

ADJOURNMENT.
The Board then adjourned until next Thursday week.

THE SHANGHAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

The following letter has been addressed by the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Peking:

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai, 17th Sept., 1896.

Your Excellency.—This Chamber has had under consideration proposed amendments of the Tariff and Duties and the consequent revision, or adaptation, of the same under conditions of the Foreign Treaties with China; and, recognising the necessities which the Chinese Government are under to raise additional revenue by increasing taxation upon trade, the Committee feel justified in offering some suggestions, which are made with due regard to the welfare and prosperity of the country in which the interests of foreign merchants are so largely involved.

Did the questions at issue rest between one European nation and another, it would be possible for a Chamber of Commerce to state briefly its views and to avoid reference to first principles, already well known, but as your Excellency will possibly see fit to lay before the Yamen the views now expressed, it may not be without useful purpose to touch on fundamental rules which ought to govern taxation both of exports and imports in China.

As regards exports it will be admitted that every increase in taxation thereon, every tax upon national industries, plays into the hands of other countries, whilst on the other hand it may be contended that, if China must discharge the foreign obligations by the export of commodities, producers of these commodities should contribute their share towards the needs of their government, and this is just.

The injustice arises when the tax exceeds the need, and ruins a trade by depriving the producer of the narrow margin of profit upon which he can survive; for it must be borne in mind that the value realised for China's exports is not determined by China herself; she is but one factor, the price China receives is determined by the competing production of other countries and the position of supply and demand in the consuming markets.

Thus, before India and Ceylon grew tea, China could exact her own price; since tea has become an article of export from other countries, China's share in the trade has declined, and so far as Great Britain is concerned, is threatened with extinction, because the Chinese Government, by the continued imposition of a high tax on the production, robs the grower of his narrow margin of profit, and thus checks the trade.

It is the same with silk for which China could formerly often command her price, but whose price is largely dependent upon the production in other countries; if China by taxation exacts from her silk producers (whether in the early stage of cocoons or the

later form of filatures) such a share of their produce as raises the price above that of similar produce in foreign countries, it does not injure the industry of foreign countries; but simply impoverishes the resources of China.

The needs and system of government in China are based upon no European model and may not lightly be disregarded or set aside; but a reasonable revision of the Treaty Tariff requires little more than that sufficient security be furnished by the Chinese Government for effectual fulfilment of obligations which it undertakes to perform, and which have been in the past a mere dead letter.

To this end the Chamber contends that whilst leaving China to arrange what percentage of duties should be appropriated respectively to the Imperial authorities and to the Provincial authorities for internal revenues, a certain proportion should be retained as a reserve, from which illegal exaction upon merchandise in transit could be met and satisfied, and that in return for the increase in import duties all imports should not only be declared free, but actually be free from internal taxation while in transit or at the terminal point. In connection with any important increase of import duty it will be obvious to your Excellency that the question of Bonded Warehouses may of necessity again become a subject for practical consideration, and the Committee submit that the privileges already afforded to the leading native Steamship Company should be extended to foreign wharfigers.

While assenting to an increase in import duties, this Chamber considers that export duties, if not abandoned, should at least be reduced and limited to exports to foreign countries, and not imposed upon goods transferred from one port or place in China to another. In addition to export duty this Chamber concedes the principle of transit duty upon produce to meet the requirements of the provincial authorities; the main principle it contends for is the right to buy produce anywhere on the coast or in the interior and transport it, upon payment of transit duty, from one port or place in China to another, there to consume it, without further taxation, or to export it under conditions which of necessity vary in accordance with the nature of the commodity.

This Chamber urges upon the Chinese the construction of manufactories and the fostering of industries of every kind, and, until in a position to satisfy the country's requirements, it suggests, but does not insist, that the introduction of all machinery be duty free, in order that China may take its place as a manufacturing centre amongst the countries of the world as speedily as possible. And this Chamber claims for manufactories at present established or in course of construction the right to buy produce and transport it from place to place in China upon payment of the transit duty only.

If a basis for the revision of taxation be agreed upon, details can afterwards be arranged as to whether and in what directions specific or *ad valorem* duties be respectively imposed, but for the protection of trade and enforcement of the contract, this Chamber attaches the utmost importance to its suggestion that a guarantee or reserve fund be created which would ensure the fulfilment of transit duty obligations by the Chinese Government's provincial subordinates.

Whilst thus drawing the attention of your Excellency to the principles which this Chamber considers should govern any amendment or revision of Commercial Treaties, necessary to request you also to consider the memorial regarding taxation of manufactories recently addressed by the Tsung-li Yamen to the Throne. On its application to the silk filature industry I have already had the honour of addressing your Excellency, but for sake of record a copy of that communication is hereto attached; the argument against the proposal of the Memorialists to charge 10 per cent. on the improved silk product is simply that the trade will be practically ruined thereby; the raw article (the cocoon) is already overburdened by *lekin* of more than doubtful legality, and, if the additional impost is exacted, it means that either the rearers of the silk worms will have to accept proportionately lower prices or that the filature factories will close their doors, throwing thousands of natives out of employment and

causing great loss of foreign and native capital. The publication of the Chamber's letter to your Excellency has drawn forth from some apparently authoritative person a statement in the newspapers that the expression "to supplement" *lekin* would better have been translated "in substitution of *lekin*," but be this as it may, the intention to continue *lekin* on the raw material (cocoons) is indisputable, and the freedom of the improved product after payment of 10 per cent. duty is a valueless privilege, as it is solely an export and does not go back in the interior of China for consumption.

The subject of Cotton Mills is one which the Chamber of necessity approaches with less freedom; it is a departure *de novo* and though under existing Treaties immediate advantages might be claimed both for the industry and the Imperial revenue, it is recognised that, provided the necessary guarantees can be obtained for strict adherence to a more lasting agreement, the general discussion of taxation affords an opportune moment for the settlement of the future.

The mill owners therefore maintain that as an incentive to a new industry and one of the principal ones likely to be permanently beneficial to the Government of China, as well as to individual enterprise, it is essential—

1.—That raw cotton for treatment in the mills, whether purchased in the interior and brought to this or any other Treaty port for subsequent delivery, shall be free absolutely from *lekin* or *lotishui* such as is referred to in the memorial of the Tsung-li Yamen and subject only to transit duty on cotton imported from a foreign port.

2.—That presuming as an illustrative rate the import duty on foreign yarns is raised to an *ad valorem* rate of ten per cent., which entitles the same to the advantages of transit passes and freedom from *lekin*, the excise or duty imposed on the produce of local mills shall, inclusive of the transit pass duty on the raw cotton, never exceed the said ten per cent. (or whatever percentage may be fixed) and that the local made yarns shall if sent for or on sale up country or to any other port in China have the same freedom from further transit dues and immunity from *lekin* which the foreign imported article enjoys.

3.—That the excise or duty on local made yarn shall free the same from all export duty or impost of any kind whether to a foreign country or any port in China, and that if the latter be the destination a certificate of payment of excise shall give the said yarn the same freedom from transit dues, *lekin*, and other exactions, as it would have enjoyed had it been sent direct from Shanghai into the interior.

4.—That raw cotton whether imported from a foreign port or another port in China for treatment at the mills should be free from import duty, or that if duty be demanded thereon the same shall be deducted on payment of the excise on the manufactured article.

5.—That if native cotton mills in any part of the Empire have or are granted any terms or privileges superior to those fixed for foreign owned mills the latter shall have the benefit of the same.

Without these conditions, or something similar in effect, enterprise will be hampered and China's opportunity of entering the ranks of manufacturing countries lost.

As regards tea the position of China's trade is so notorious that it seems almost unnecessary to dilate. Attached is a copy of a letter to this Chamber dealing with the question in detail, but in asking your Excellency's attention thereto I may be permitted to give a single illustration. The export duty is specific, viz., Tls. 2.5 Hk. or Tls. 2.8 Shanghai per picul, fixed many years ago when it was supposed to be the equivalent of 5 per cent. on the average value of teas supplied. At the present time, owing to the competitive enterprise of other producing countries, a low quality of common tea might be bought for Tls. 9.80 p. pl. which includes the export duty of Tls. 2.80; the actual price of the tea therefore at the port of shipment is Tls. 7 p. pl. on which is levied Tls. 2.80 or say 40 per cent. (instead of 5 per cent.) export duty. Under the price at port of shipment, for Tls. 7 includes exactions, *lekin*, and transit dues of various and substantial amounts, which simply shows that were these relaxed and

the export duty rectified China may yet by its inherent cheapness of production regain to some extent her lost position. I say to some extent, for not only has China by taxation ruined her own trade, but the people in ignorance fail to realise that the care bestowed by competitors in other countries, both in plantation and the factory, cannot be combated without the adoption of similar means. In the interests of the masses in China this subject calls for reform.

Your Excellency will, I fear, be wearied with the length of this communication—the importance of the subjects touched on must be the excuse of the Chamber. It is indeed impossible in letter form to attempt to deal exhaustively with matters of such magnitude, and recognising this, the Chamber rejoice in having obtained the assent of its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Dudgeon, to visit Peking and offer such further explanations as may be required by the various members of the Corps Diplomatique. Mr. Dudgeon will leave this for Tientsin and Peking in the course of a few days, and I am requested to commend him to the consideration of your Excellency and your colleagues.

It may be asked how can these expressions of opinion verbal and otherwise be brought into practical effect; this Chamber have after anxious consideration decided to suggest that as a *modus operandi* it is advisable that a Joint Commission of Consular and Custom officials together with a fair representation of merchants be formed, to sit at this port and at least endeavour to make a report showing in what way the revenue can be raised with beneficial results to the trade of the country. It is not presumed that such a report would in itself be the final settlement of a question which can only be decided by Treaty and Governmental agreements; but it is deemed possible that the recommendations which the Commission would make might relieve the Legations and the Yamen from much controversy and lengthy discussion, and form the basis upon which an equitable and lasting agreement might be conveniently arrived at.

As a preliminary to this procedure the Committee of this Chamber have asked their Vice-Chairman Mr. Dudgeon to lay before your Excellency and your colleagues any further explanations and argument which may appear called for.—I have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

E. F. ALFORD, Chairman.

To His Excellency Colonel Denby, Minister for the U.S. of America and Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, Peking.

[A copy of this letter, with the necessary alterations, was sent to the Marquis of Salisbury, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs per mail of 18th September.]

THE INCREASE IN CABLE RATES.

THE SHANGHAI CHAMBER'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE BRITISH MINISTER.

The following correspondence is published by the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce:—

THE MINISTER TO THE CHAMBER.

Peking, 27th August.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th of August, calling my attention to the increase in telegraphic charges adopted by the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies, and forwarding to me certain correspondence which has passed between your Chamber and the Telegraph Companies. I have read the correspondence in question and given it my careful consideration.

I regret that I am not in a position to review or reconsider the official ratification which was given by me on the 30th of July to the Convention, which was, I believe, signed on the 11th of July.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

The Chairman, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

THE MINISTER TO THE CHAMBER.

Peking, 12th September.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd September in which you desire to draw my attention to the "apparently inequitable and racial distinction whereby messages sent by foreigners are charged twice as much as messages sent by natives."

I reply I beg to state that I will take the earliest opportunity of submitting the representations of your Chamber on this point to Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

I would, however, point out that the distinction is hardly "racial;" it is not one which applies to messages sent by foreigners or by Chinese, but to messages sent in a foreign language or the Chinese language.

I am given to understand that the principal reason for charging half rates for messages sent in the code of ten thousand words published by the Chinese Telegraphs was introduced because the above number provides a very small code as against the four hundred thousand available for Europeans.

As you are doubtless aware, the same rule is in force in Japan.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

The Chairman, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

THE CHAMBER TO THE MINISTER.

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai, 29th September.

Sir,—I have the honour to own receipt of your letters of 27th August and 12th inst., the first in acknowledgment of that of 17th August from this Chamber protesting against the abrupt and arbitrary increase in Telegraphic Rates, and the latter in acknowledgment of my letter of the 3rd inst. calling attention to the differential treatment of foreign and native local messages.

On the general subject of the increase in European and local rates your Excellency's inability to review your action is much to be regretted, but the brevity of your reply must not, I am sure, be construed as unsympathetic to our complaint, nor as indicative of unwillingness to lay before the Powers interested views condemnatory of their hasty and inexplicable action; only one construction can be put upon such action, viz., that commercial interests in the East have been sacrificed for the benefit of more potent influence elsewhere.

That such a sacrifice was inequitable is shown in the remarks of a leading speaker at the recent meeting held in Hongkong on this subject, viz.:—"I have read their (i.e. Telegraph Co.) side of the case very carefully. Their contention is that they are only putting the rates homewards on the same basis as the rates outwards. That would be all very well if the rates outwards were at a reasonable figure; but surely at this period, at the end of the nineteenth century, 7s. a word from London to Hongkong is an excessive rate. Every person must admit that. I thoroughly believe that in the course of a very few years people will say, 'I remember when in Hongkong the telegraph rate from London to Hongkong was 7s. per word. It is a monstrous charge. Therefore I say that instead of raising the homeward rates, the Telegraph Companies might have met their constituents with a reasonable reduction of the outward rates, corresponding with the sterling value of the amount homeward. The next question that arises is—can they afford to do it?' I say, yes, emphatically. The Chinese Administration, I believe, returned something like twenty-four per cent. to their shareholders. At a recent meeting of the Great Northern Company held in Copenhagen they reported a reserve fund of nearly a million sterling, and as for Eastern Extension I should say happy are the shareholders in that concern. They have gone on increasing their lines, and, as their position is a splendid one, they can afford to be just to their shareholders and generous to the public."

The prosperity of these two European Lines was confirmed by another speaker, who pointed out that the Danish and English Companies paid 10 per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively.

It is not surprising therefore that those who have contributed largely to the prosperity of these Companies feel aggrieved at the treatment received.

For your Excellency's courteous and prompt reply regarding differential charges in European and Chinese telegrams the Committee are much obliged, and they note that their representation will be submitted to H.B.M.'s Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to your Excellency's correction of the term "racial" I will gladly substitute "linguistic" though the term used is immaterial, for the fact remains that Chinese foreign messages can be sent at "half price."

The Committee note your remark that the same rule is in force in Japan, but a precedent of wrong does not justify a repetition thereof, and the Yokohama Chamber will doubtless act as it deems expedient.

Your Excellency will understand that these somewhat plain words are penned solely in condemnation of a policy which if applied to other matters will be destructive to trade, and that the respect of the Committee for your Excellency's office and person is in no way diminished thereby.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

E. F. ALFORD,

Chairman.

To H.E. Sir Claude M. MacDonald, K.C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Minister Plenipotentiary, Peking.

STEAMERS IN THE TYPHOON.

The *Strathallan*, which arrived here from Hongay on the 8th October, had a very unfortunate experience with the typhoon. She left Hongay on the 4th inst. with coals and on the evening of the 5th, when about forty miles N.E. of the Hainan middle channel, a terrific typhoon was encountered, the wind varying from N.N.E. round by N. to S.W. The lowest point touched by the barometer was 28.60 at 2 p.m. on the 6th. There was a very confused sea and the saloon was completely flooded. Every article in it was smashed and utterly destroyed, while cabins, skylights, companions, steering gear, boats, and other deck works suffered much damage. Captain Macoubrey was a very heavy loser of personal effects. He lost all his property and when he came ashore he had to borrow a suit of clothes from the mate. In addition he lost \$200 from a cash box which was smashed up by the flood and also his private nautical instruments. Fortunately no one sustained bodily injury.

The Danish steamer *Aik*, from Pakhoi 3rd Oct., and Hoihow 7th, had strong gale commencing from N.W. with rain squalls changing during the afternoon to W.N.W. and later on to W.; lowest reading 29.32 at 3 p.m. At 5 p.m. glass commenced to rise, after 9 p.m. the wind went down; at 1 a.m. the following morning the wind turned S.W. and went down quickly, glass rising at the same time. Left at 5 a.m.; moderate to fresh E. and S.E. wind with rain squalls and heavy sea over the China Sea.

The British steamer *Newyang*, from Singapore 29th Sept., had fine weather up to 5th Oct. At 4 a.m. that day fell in with a heavy typhoon, blowing from the west, with much blinding rain. Heeded, reached the ship up to the heavy sea, on the starboard tack to north; ship labouring heavily taking everything off the decks and part of the bulwarks; also some damage aloft to lifts and braces. Bar. 29.50; wind shifted to starboard. Battened passengers below. Gale lasted till 6th at daylight, when it shifted to south, moderating; anchored off Green Island at 7 p.m.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

The twenty-third ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders in the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, was held at the head office on the 8th October at noon. Mr. H. L. Dalrymple presided and there were also present:—Messrs. N. A. Siebs, R. Richardson, A. Ross, H. Stollerfoht (Directors), N. J. Ede (Secretary), Hon. A. McConachie, C. H. Thompson, R. C. Wilcox, W. H. Potts, C. C. Hagan, L. M. Alvarez, G. W. F. Playfair, J. H. Cox, Hart Buck, R. K. Leigh, C. H. Rogge, H. J. Carvalho, W. J. Saunders, Morton Jones, J. H. Lewis, J. M. McKie, A. Coxon, and V. A. O. Hawkins.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, as is usual on these occasions I propose to take as read the report and accounts which are before you, and which were issued on the 22nd September, unless any shareholder wishes me to go through the form of reading them. Our next premium for

the year 1895 shows only a small increase over that of the previous year, but I think we may consider it satisfactory in view of the fall in rates in many directions, and the circumstance that the average rate of exchange at which our sterling premium for 1895 has been converted into dollars is slightly higher than that of 1894. You will notice that our paid-up capital now stands at \$500,000 and that the balance at credit of our exchange fluctuation account has been reduced from \$724,366 in 1894 to \$450,621 in 1895, a difference of \$273,745. Of this amount \$250,000 is accounted for by the transfer to capital account as sanctioned at our last shareholders' meeting, and the remaining \$23,745 has been absorbed by the slight rise in exchange which took place during the year 1895. The total profit for the year, after carrying forward the sum of \$247,950 for estimated losses and contingencies, is over six lacs. The distribution proposed in our report will I hope meet with the approval of all our shareholders, and the directors are very glad to be in a position to propose to the shareholders the declaration of a second bonus of 5 per cent. to contributors, the payment of so ample a dividend as \$15, and the addition at the same time of a considerable sum to the reserve fund. The Board thinks that in the best interests of the Company the reserve should be strengthened as much as possible. As regards 1896 account, while the figures at 30th June are very favourable, the estimate for outstanding losses is heavier than usual, but it is too early to make any forecast of the final outturn, and the result of this year's working may yet be very satisfactory. There are, I think, no other points of interest which it is necessary to allude to, but I shall be happy to reply to any questions you may wish to ask.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—It has become almost monotonous to say that the Union has again issued a good report, but the one now before us is quite on a par with the excellent reports of the past. You pay shareholders a dividend of \$15 per share against \$12 in 1894. You add \$150,000 to reserve against \$80,000 in 1894. You return twenty-five per cent. on contributions, which is the same as on a previous year. You carry forward \$247,950 against \$161,025.43 last year at the same date. I further notice that you have \$257,145.04 at credit of investment fluctuation account against \$167,813 in your balance sheet of 1895. It is true that you estimate your losses up to 30th September of the present year at \$148,000 more than at the same time last year, and this sum may, although you do not say so, include provision for your losses per *Glenartney*. Against the increased losses it is very satisfactory to see an increase of something like \$65,000 in the net premium earned. Take the report as you may, it is a brilliant one, and, sir, I feel sure I but voice the sentiments of all when I congratulate the Board, its more than able Secretary, and the staff generally on the result of your combined labours. (Applause.) With these remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and passing of accounts.

The CHAIRMAN—Before I put forward the passing of the report and accounts I beg to thank Mr. McConachie in the name of the Board of Directors and the staff generally for his appreciation of their services and the results which have been obtained during the past year. I think the results are certainly very satisfactory; this is about the best report that the Union has ever brought out and our being able to put \$150,000 to the reserve fund is one of the best features. (Applause.) With regard to the remark about the *Glenartney* I may say that she has been provided for. (Applause.)

Carried.

Mr. PLATTRE proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Messrs. N. A. Siebs and R. Richardson.

Mr. B. K. LEIGH seconded.

Carried.

Mr. WILCOX proposed the re-election of the auditors, Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Potts.

Mr. THOMPSON seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That, gentlemen, concludes the business of the meeting. I am much obliged to you for your attendance. I hope that when

we meet again this time next year we shall have as favourable a report to bring forward. (Applause.) Dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow morning.

SINGAPORE INSURANCE COMPANY.

A special general meeting of the Singapore Insurance Company (in Liquidation) was held at Singapore on the 1st October. There were present Messrs. John F. Craig (in the Chair), J. Fraser, and J. P. Joaquim (Liquidators), and Mr. A. Gunn and Mr. Moses.

Mr. Craig, in presenting the report of the Liquidators, said that the last meeting was held on the 16th of March, 1894. Since then, and up to the present, the Liquidators had not been in a position to pay a further dividend, nor had they been able to see their way to a final closing of the liquidation. The news of the settlement of the last known claim was only received by them on the 8th of September, last month. Steps were immediately taken to make the necessary application to the Court for the final closing of the liquidation. He now presented the report and accounts of the Liquidators up to the 10th ult.

This was all the business.

THE GYMKHANA.

Fortunately the weather brightened up on Saturday, and the last gymkhana of the season was held under enjoyable climatic conditions. There was a fairly good attendance and the meeting passed off very successfully. The various events were keenly contested and some interesting racing was witnessed. H.E. the Governor and Major-General Black were amongst those present. During the intervals between the races some excellent music was rendered by the Band of the Rifle Brigade, who were in attendance by kind permission of Lieut.-Col. Norcott and Officers of the Regiment.

The following were the officials:—

Committee:—Mr. R. Alexander, R.B., Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. Hart Buck, Capt. Burney, R.A., Mr. M. Grote, Mr. V. Caesar Hawkins, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mr. C. H. Nugent, Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., Mr. J. McKie, Mr. G. C. C. Master, Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Capt. Radclyffe, R.B., Commander W. F. Tunnard, R.N., Hon. T. H. Whitehead. Judges:—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Handicappers.—Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. Grote, Mr. T. F. Hough.

Starter.—Capt. Burney, R.A.

Timekeeper.—Mr. J. McKie.

Clerk of the Scales.—Mr. R. Alexander, R.B.

Hon. Treasurer.—Capt. Radclyffe.

Hon. Secretary.—Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.

Following are details of the racing:—

FIVE FURLONGS HANDICAP; for all China ponies; 1st prize, \$60; 2nd, \$20. Entrance \$2.00.

Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman's Morrison, 10st. 9lbs.

(Mr. Boden) 1

Surg.-Capt. Edye's Planet, 11st. 6lbs. (Owner) 2

Mr. Potts' Vagabond, 11st. 5lbs.

(Capt. Radclyffe) 3

Mr. Whitehead's The Laird, 11st.

(Mr. Jones) 0

Planet came away with a slight lead at the start from Morrison and the race at once resolved itself into a match between these two. Planet maintained his lead until the straight, when Morrison came up and overhauled his opponent, winning a good race by a length and half; four lengths between second and third. Time, 1 min. 22½ secs.

THE WELTER WEIGHT RACE; for China ponies; riders restricted to members walking 12st. or upwards; half mile; 1st prize, \$60; 2nd, the entrance fees. Entrance \$2.00.

Mr. R. Potts' Presto (Owner) 1

Mr. Deacon's Thistle (Owner) 2

Mr. Whitehead's Kingscote (Owner) 3

Mr. Geo. Potts' Squib (Owner) 0

Mr. Forbes' Simple Simon (Owner) 0

Mr. Hastings' Galgorn (Owner) 0

After considerable delay at the post the six competitors were got away to a fairly even start and kept well together as far as the bend, when Presto drew out and won by about three lengths;

same distance between second and third. Time 1 min. 8 secs.

HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE; for China ponies, over the S.C. Course. At least 5 runners or no race. 1st prize, \$50; 2nd, \$20. Entrance \$2.00.

Mr. Boden's Vapour, 11st. 9lbs. (Owner) 1

Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 10st. 13lbs. (Col. The O'Gorman) 2

Capt. Loveband's Xerxes, 10st. 10lbs. (Capt. Radclyffe) 3

Capt. Loveband's Artaxerxes, 9st. 9lbs. (Mr. Long) 0

Vapour quickly took the lead, which he maintained throughout and won by three lengths.

For second place a desperate contest was witnessed between Voltigeur and Artaxerxes, but the latter was beaten at the second hurdle from home, and Voltigeur shot up and challenged Vapour, but could not overhaul the leader and had to be content with second place. Bad third.

CONSOATION HANDICAP; once round course; for ponies that have run in this season's Gymkhanas and not won a flat race; first prize \$60; 2nd, \$20. Entrance \$2.00.

Mr. Potts' Vagabond, 11st. 5lbs. (Mr. Jones) 1

Mr. Nugent's Armistice, 11st. 2lbs. (Capt. Radclyffe) 2

Capt. Burney's Baccarat, 9st. 9lbs. (Mr. S. Long) 3

Mr. Whitehead's Kingscote, 10st. 7lbs. (Mr. Boden) 0

Capt. Long's Borderer, 9st. 13lbs. (Owner) 0

Armistice was leading until a few yards from the post, when Vagabond shot out and gained the judge's verdict with a length in hand. Time 2 mins. 6 secs.

TENT PEGGING COMPETITION; first prize, a Cup presented by Major-General Wilson Black, C.B.; 2nd, the entrance fees. Entrance \$2.00. Points will be added or deducted for pace, accuracy, and style.

Capt. Loveband Mr. de Vitri

Mr. Geo. Potts Surg.-Capt. Edye

Capt. Welman Captain Long

Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman Mr. C. H. Ross

1, Capt. Loveband; 2, Mr. de Vitri.

LADIES' NOMINATION; a mathematical race. Entrance \$2. Competitors must start mounted at winning post, ride over a hurdle, round a flag (left arm) 150 yards distant and back over hurdle; hand an envelope to nominator containing a paper on which a sum has to be worked out by the nominator unassisted: once more over the hurdle and round the flag: first in with sum correctly worked in his possession wins.

Capt. Loveband, nom. by Mrs. Lee..... 1

Capt. Long, nom. by Mrs. Eccles..... 2

Capt. Welman, nom. by Mrs. Welman..... 0

Mr. Thresher, nom. by Mrs. Hawkins..... 0

Mr. Berger, nom. by Mrs. Norcott..... 0

Mr. de Vitri, nom. by Miss Jackson..... 0

THE GYMKHANA CUP; 1¼ mile race; for ponies that have run in this season's Gymkhanas; first prize, \$120; 2nd, \$25; weight for inches as per scale. Entrance \$3.

Mr. Master's Red Fish, 11st. 1lb. (Owner) 1

Mr. Potts' Vagabond, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Jones) 2

Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 11st. 1lb. (Capt. Radclyffe) 3

Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman's Morrison, 10st. 7lb. (Mr. Boden) 0

This was perhaps the best contest of the day; the race down the straight between Red Fish and Vagabond being very exciting. Red Fish was leading, closely followed by Vagabond, and the latter made a gallant challenge a few strides from home, but Red Fish, on whom Mr. Master was riding a capital race, shook his opponent off and won by three-quarters of a length. Time 3 mins. ¼ sec.

In view of rebellions breaking out occasionally in the Province, H.E. Liu Kunyi has sent instructions to the Shanghai Taotal requiring him to consult the Commissioner of Customs with a view to more rigid search being made for firearms on board the steamers, and to strictly deal with parties guilty of smuggling arms. The Consuls are to be communicated with, that they may instruct their nationals to see that no sale of firearms is made to any persons other than those who hold authority from the Government to buy them.—*Mercury*

CRICKET.

ROYAL ARTILLERY V. AMOY.
The following is the score of the match played at Amoy on the 6th and 7th inst. between a Royal Artillery eleven from Hongkong and a local eleven—

Amoy.		1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
H. C. Marshall, b. Davies	1	st. Wells, b. Lovell	22	st. Wells, b. Lovell	22
E. Leyburn, b. Davies	2	b. Davies	6	b. Davies	6
W. H. Wallace, c. Buzzard,		b. Davies	0	b. Davies	0
G. A. Heron, c. Langhorne,		b. Davies	16	b. Davies	16
P. Sproule, c. Grayson, b.		b. Davies	2	b. Davies	2
F. B. Marshall, b. Blease	7	b. Davies	7	b. Davies	7
A. F. Gardiner, b. Davies	0	b. Davies	13	b. Davies	13
H. King, not out	12	b. Davies	0	b. Davies	0
W. E. Reay, c. Lewin, b.		b. Davies	4	b. Davies	4
W. Wilson, c. Davies, b.		b. Davies	2	b. Davies	2
B. Jenkins, b. Langhorne	10	b. Davies	0	b. Davies	0
Byes, &c.	5	b. Davies	4	b. Davies	4
	95	b. Davies	82	b. Davies	82

R.A., HONGKONG		1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Q. M. S. Blease, b. King	19	b. Marshall	0	b. Marshall	0
S. M. Severn, b. Marshall	4	b. Marshall	8	b. Marshall	8
C. N. Buzzard, b. King	2	b. Marshall	25	b. Marshall	25
A. D. H. Grayson, hit wkt.		b. Marshall	1	b. Marshall	1
P. O. Davies, c. Heron, b.		b. Marshall	21	b. Marshall	21
Capt. Langhorne, c. Gardi-		b. Marshall	1	b. Marshall	1
ner, b. Heron	47	b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
H. E. Lewin, run out	0	b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
Sergeant Wells, c. Sproule, b.		b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
Marshall	0	b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
P. H. Cruickshank, c. and		b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
b. King	5	b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
Sergeant Lovell, b. Heron	4	b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
Q. M. S. Mackenzie, not out	0	b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
Byes, &c.	5	b. Marshall	7	b. Marshall	7
	107	b. Marshall	72	b. Marshall	72

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE KOWLOON FERRY SERVICE IN THE TYPHOON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—In reference to the paragraphs which have appeared in the daily papers concerning the running of the above launches during the late typhoon, we beg to state that we have thoroughly investigated the matter and respectfully request that you will kindly publish the following statements concerning the same.

The coxswain of the *Rising Star* says:—"My launch commenced running at 6.15 a.m. on the 6th inst., and continued running in conjunction with the *Evening Star* until 8.45 a.m. At 8.15 a.m. I was alongside the Kowloon Ferry pier when Captain Brown ordered me away. I told him I was waiting for some more passengers. At that time I only had on board about twelve Chinese passengers. A few minutes afterwards Captain Brown came and let go my lines, so that I was compelled to leave the wharf without any European passengers. I proceeded to New Pedder's wharf, discharged my passengers, and took on board about 30 Chinese. On again arriving at Kowloon, Captain Brown refused to allow the launch to come alongside the Ferry wharf, so I was compelled to land my passengers at the big No. 2 wharf, which I did with great difficulty. I then went for shelter to East Point, as I understood that Captain Brown would not let me run to the wharf any more owing to the roughness of the sea. I remained at East Point about one hour, and as the weather moderated, I went on the Ferry again, leaving Pedder's wharf at 11.05 a.m. I continued running as often as possible until 5.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. on the 7th inst. I commenced running at 6.30 a.m. on the 6th from Hongkong. Continued running until 8 a.m. in conjunction with the *Rising Star*. I was compelled to knock off then, owing to the difficulty of getting alongside the New Pedder's wharf through the heavy sea, our lines being carried away. I went for shelter at East Point,

but resumed the service at 10.30 a.m. and continued running until dark. Having due regard to the safety of the launch and passengers I could not have done more than I did.

C. Xavier, purser of the launches, says that the *Rising Star* made 16 trips, and the *Evening Star* 14 trips during the day.

Mr. E. Mast, Canadian Pacific Railway, says:—"Referring to the remarks in last evening's *China Mail*, I must say I cannot agree with same, and consider that under the circumstances, the launch service between Kowloon and Hongkong on the 6th inst. was as satisfactory as any one could reasonably expect."

Mr. F. D. Maclean, Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. says:—"I have pleasure in stating that I came over yesterday by the *Evening Star* at about 11.45 a.m. and returned at about 4.30 p.m. in the evening."

Mr. R. Mitchell, of the Dock Company, says:—"I am pleased to say I was able to get over to business by your launch *Evening Star* at 8.15 a.m. and returned to Kowloon at 5.15 p.m. by the same launch on the 6th inst."

Mr. R. E. Humphreys says:—"I have pleasure in stating that I used the *Star* launch yesterday at, say, 11.45 in the morning and again at about 4.15 in the evening."

Mr. H. S. Cooke, of Messrs. Harvie & Co., says:—"In response to your enquiry, I am able to state that I came over from Kowloon yesterday by a *Star* launch at 11.00 a.m. and returned by a *Star* launch at 4.00 p.m. Except as touching the adventures and perils of the sea and weather, I suffered no inconvenience on this particular occasion."

Mr. R. Lang says:—"Re service of launches, I have lived in Kowloon about 15 years, and I never considered I was put to any unnecessary inconvenience."

Mr. M. de Azevedo says:—"I hereby certify that during my twenty years' residence at Kowloon, I have always found the *Star* Ferry launches run very punctually, without causing any inconvenience to me or my family, barring typhoon days, when the weather is exceedingly bad."

Mr. J. S. Plummer says:—"In compliance with your request I beg to state that I did come over to Hongkong yesterday morning in one of the *Star* Ferry launches, and returned in the afternoon by the same means."

We respectfully submit that the above statements speak for themselves as to whether we, having regard to the safety of the launches and passengers, ran the launches as often as it was practicable to do so. Mr. D. J. Orabjee was on the wharf nearly the whole of the day to personally supervise the service and see that no Kowloon residents were left behind. Thanking you for your kindness in inserting this.—Yours obediently,

THE MANAGERS OF THE "STAR" FERRY LAUNCHES.

Hongkong, 7th October, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR.—The Managers of the *Star* Ferry launches in a letter in your Thursday's issue give publicity to a report of the coxswain of the *Rising Star*, from which it might appear that I was responsible for the ferry boats not running during the recent typhoon.

Will you kindly allow me to say that in no way whatever did I give the coxswain of the *Rising Star* to understand that he could not run to the Ferry Wharf and there was nothing to prevent him from doing so.—Yours truly,

F. A. BROWN.

Hongkong, 9th October, 1896.

THE TRADE ROUTES TO SZECHUAN.

From time to time alarmist reports appear of the success attending the French efforts to tap the rich trade of Szechuan by way of the Tonkin and Yunnan route, as against the competing routes from India. It is gratifying to know, however, that one of the most recent travellers through the territory concerned gives a more reassuring version of the state of affairs, and anticipates a large measure of success for the British plans if the nature of the country is appreciated and railways constructed in relation thereto. Ejected from their station at Yachou by the disturbances in Szechuan last year, the Rev. W. N. Upcraft and the Rev. H. J. Open-

shaw, of the American Baptist Mission, started on a journey with the primary object of investigating the possibilities of mission work amongst the Lolos and other tribes dwelling on the Burma-China borders. They started from Chungking in September of last year, towards the province of Yunnan. After leaving the Yangtze they had an overland journey to the capital city, Yunnanfu, thence to Mengtze and Laokai, the border town between Yunnan and Tonkin. The country down to Yunnanfu is described as very mountainous with here and there a plain occupied by villages, the people being very poor and stupid. Between Yunnanfu and Mengtze it bears unmistakable evidence of the ravages of the Mohammedan rebellion. The opening of Mengtze has had a marked influence upon trade. Instead of going by the West River, as formerly, the exports, principally tin and opium, are sent down by the Red River. The French are making strenuous endeavours to secure the trade of the district, but though there is a good deal of outward show, little profitable commerce seems to fall to them. In Yunnanfu two shops for the sale of French goods have been opened by nominal Christians, and a passenger and two small cargo steamers ply between Mengtze (?) and Laokai. These are heavily subsidised by the French government. British goods, however, find their way to the interior by the tortuous route from Bhamo, and it is a testimonial to their merits that though they have to be carried all the way on pack animals they find a readier market than the French productions. The travellers passed through Tonkin, which appears to be absolutely stagnant if not retrogressive. The contrast it presents with Burma—which was reached by steamer to Rangoon—is surprising. The comparatively few years of British government in Burma have produced a wonderful change. There is an air of prosperity for the future. Railways are being projected and extended and Mr. Upcraft does not conceal his belief that Western China trade is at the disposal of the British if good judgment is only exercised upon the railways. The Kunlon Ferry Railway, which starting from near Mandalay will terminate on the Salween river, will develop the trade of its own district, but will not have much influence in the tapping of China. The Bhamo-Tengyueh (Mong Hsin) route is another line which Mr. Upcraft discounts as a mode of reaching the objective point, Szechuan. The country to be traversed after Tengyueh is reached is of the most difficult character, and the railway would have to cross range after range of mountains running in parallel lines across the map. The route, however, which has the greatest chance of success is by the extension northward of the railway from Magaung north of Bhamo, and then the utilisation of the trade route eastward to Szechuan. The railway is already surveyed to Myitkyino, and the line of advance to Western China lies to the north-east. Of course these extensions are costly, but their ultimate reward is so certain that no time should be lost. From Bhamo to Tengyueh the travellers took eight days, and from Tengyueh to Tan-tze twelve. This latter town is a great distributing point. Going north, across the Yangtze, Upcraft and his companion entered the country which is practically the home of the Lolos. At a place called Kinkiang (Gold River) however, they were attacked by robbers, their men beaten and forced back. Another road was tried, but again the robbers caused trouble, so the travellers were compelled to take the usual eastern road back to Szechuan, arriving in Chungking after an absence of some eight or nine months. Mr. Upcraft's testimony bears out the experience of previous travellers regarding the slight power China has over the western tribes nominally under their protection. Except in keeping the country closed as much as possible to travellers, China's influence counts for little. Just now there is a serious war amongst some of the Tibetan tribes, and the efforts of the Chinese officials to suppress it have been as inefficient and useless as usual. The Chinese were told to mind their own business and were driven off the field by the other parties. On the other hand, the security of British rule is attracting to Burma many of the Shan tribes, who are disgusted with the exactions

of the Chinese. Altogether Mr. Upcraft's opinions on the state of affairs in an important part of the world deserve careful consideration as coming from an independent and keen observer. *N. C. Daily News.*

REPORT ON LABOUR IN THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN.

The United States Consul at Kobe in his report for last year gives a report on Japanese labour, from which we extract the following:—
In order to place before the American people the true facts in regard to labour in this Empire, I have had the following table made up by competent and trustworthy heads of Japanese industries, and confirmed by the proper authorities having charge of the industries of the Empire and its labour statistics:—

PER DAY.

	1895.	1894.	1893.
	yen.	yen.	yen.
Carpenters...	0.55	0.45	0.35
Plasterers...	0.55	0.45	0.32
Stonecutters...	0.50	0.45	0.40
Sawyers...	0.60	0.50	0.35
Roofers...	0.42	0.35	0.30
Tilers...	0.60	0.50	0.38
Matting makers...	0.35	0.30	0.25
Screen makers...	Not stated.		
Joiners...	0.35	0.25	0.20
Paper hangers...	0.35	0.28	0.25
Tailors:—			
For Japanese cloth.	0.40	0.30	0.12
For Foreign cloth.	1.00	0.70	0.35
Silk spinners...	Not stated.		
Tea workers...			
Tea firing:—			
Male...	0.70	0.50	0.30
Female...	0.30	0.20	0.15
Common labourers...	0.30	0.25	0.20
Confectioners...	0.30	0.20	0.15
Sauce makers*	0.13	0.10	0.07
Dyers...	0.30	0.22	0.20
Cotton beaters...	0.38	0.30	0.20
Blacksmiths...	0.70	0.50	0.25
Porcelain makers...	0.50	—	0.30
Porcelain artists...	0.60	—	0.35
Oil press men...	0.30	0.25	0.20
Tobacco cutters...	0.50	0.38	0.22
Printers...	0.55	0.40	0.25
Ship carpenters...	0.50	0.35	0.25
Lacquer workers...	Not stated.		
Compositors...	0.40	0.30	0.20
Sake brewers*	0.13	0.10	0.08

(* Food furnished by the employer.)

PER MONTH.

Farm labourers:—			
Male...	2.50	2.00	1.30
Female...	1.50	0.75	0.50
Silkworm breeders:—			
Male...	Not stated.		
Female...	"		
Weavers (female)...	"		
Servants in foreign houses:—			
Male...	15.00	6.00	
Female...	11.00	4.00	

The figures in the above table shows the increase in daily wage of the principal classes of labour yearly for the past three years. They also show, in a manner which cannot be questioned, inasmuch as they have been obtained from official sources, and are corroborated by foreign residents of long experience, that low though the daily wage is in this Empire as compared with the daily wage of artisans and workmen generally throughout the United States, the rates have risen enormously since the marked depreciation of silver at the beginning of 1893, and that they are still advancing. This fact in itself is fatal to the argument of those who profess to see in Japanese skilled labour a rival that is destined to throttle and stifle American industries. But there are other and perhaps more serious considerations that affect even the remotest possibility of the labour of Japan being utilized to the detriment of American labour or the advancement of American industries, and these considerations may be summed up under the following headings:—Lack of Government control in the fields of labour; and the tendency of all branches of labour in its dealing with employers, as to prices and quality, discipline, hours of toil and producing power.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF LABOUR.

Up to the present day there has been no at-

ttempt in Japan to exercise any control by means of legislation over the various fields of activity which come under the general head of labour. No laws have yet been enacted to regulate the hours of toil. The determination of that question is left solely to the judgment of the principal and employé. Nor has any effort been made thus far to deal with the important problems connected with the employment of child labour. How far the admitted antipathy of the people to long unbroken periods of activity has operated with the governing classes in their attitude of indifference to the welfare of the working sections of the community, and how far that attitude has been due to habits of mind belonging to the age of feudalism, which here is not a generation old, are questions altogether beyond the scope of this report. It is, however, reasonable to assume that the neglect of labour legislation in the past has been due to the conviction that such legislation could be dispensed with, and that conviction has rested upon thorough knowledge of national characteristics. In an Oriental country, where the right to rest is asserted upon the flimsiest pretext, the Government may be pardoned for its failure to protect by express legislative enactment the interest of the worker. It is but just to state here that there are not wanting indications that the days of a *laissez faire* attitude are numbered. The rapid extension of the cotton industry and the steady increase of mills and factories on a much larger scale seem likely to lead to legislation on the general subject of labour. Indeed the necessity of governmental interference in labour matters is fast becoming a question of the day, and leaders of thought lean more to the opinion that in the near future the Imperial Government will be obliged to enact laws determining hours of labour and abolishing all forms of child labour.

In dealing with the subject of the natural tendency of labour, the legislator, in order to enact just laws, will have to give serious consideration to the fact that the Japanese are subjects of an Oriental state and are accustomed to regard life from a dreamy, listless standpoint. This characteristic enters into—permeates—their work, and explains, if it does not justify, one of the difficulties manufacturers meet in attempting to deliver their productions on contract dates. They will also have to give serious consideration to the fact that they are not dealing with a new people, that the Japanese are indeed a very old people and are essentially children of nature, working when nature smiles, idling when nature frowns, that they are about to transplant them from their workshops, which for centuries have been within the walls of their habitations, of which they were lord and master, sleeping, eating, resting, smoking, chatting, drinking tea, and working at their own sweet will, to the inside of the brick walls of great factories; and when there to prescribe long hours of incessant toil for them.

THE TENDENCY OF ALL BRANCHES OF LABOUR IN ITS DEALING WITH EM- PLOYERS, AS TO PRICE, QUALITY, DIS- CIPLINE, HOURS OF TOIL, AND PRO- DUCING POWER.

Disciplined effort in industrial undertaking is almost unknown. The *shikataga nai* (unavoidable, fatalistic) spirit crops up in endless ways. There seems to be an abiding faith in the utility and efficacy of trade and industrial guilds and unions, in connection with which it is a noticeable fact that they are not only organized for purposes of protection and to secure increased rewards for labour, but to protect inferior work. Not only do these organizations seek to dictate terms of remuneration, but to destroy the liberty of their members to choose with whom they will deal, or for whom they shall or shall not work. The amount of skilled labour in Japan is so small that artisans and others are able, through the agency of trade organizations, to effect rapid increase of reward or wage for their work more successfully here than anywhere else in the world; and when these facts are taken in connection with the absence of all legislation governing the relations of capital and labour it must be evident to the ordinary mind that no matter what the producing capacity of labour is in Japan it will in the very near future not only become dangerous to development in the mechanical arts, but will become more costly than the labour of any of

the Western nations. Without going into any detail Count Okuma Shigenobu, late Minister of Finance of the Empire, says in a letter published in the July number of the *Far East*. "It should be remembered that it is not much over thirty years that Japan has been opened to the world, and as to our industries it is hardly a decade since they became to be more or less modernized. But there has been meanwhile a notable advance in wages. The wages to-day are incomparably higher than the wages of twenty or even fifty years ago. At this rate it is not hard to see the future of Japan. Labour here will soon become without doubt as costly as that of the West, if not more costly." But before this time arrives it will not be amiss to say that, while the prevailing rates of wage are apparently low as compared with American labour, writers on the subject should not be permitted to take these prevailing prices which are paid in silver and then reduce them to gold. The amount paid to the labourer or mechanic here in silver goes for him as far and no further than the like amount in gold does for his fellow labourer in America. So far as the use of money is concerned, the human nature of the working man of Japan is about the same as that of his brethren of Europe and America. As he forces an increased reward for his daily labour he advances his requirements. His wants become greater as his wages rise in the scale, and very often his real or imaginary wants develop more rapidly than his earning power.

Where the demand for labour is as great as it is in Japan, and skilled labour is so limited, it will be readily seen that such conditions will hasten the time when the cost of Japanese labour will grow up with that of Europe and America. It may be argued that the introduction of labour-saving machinery may change these conditions, but when it is considered that the Japanese are great copyists, but are not inventive, and that the introduction of labour-saving devices has not kept pace with the advancement of these people—and that in many cases the introduction of Western labour-saving devices and the copies of them made in Japan have not been successful—the time when the introduction of such appliances will become an important factor is too far distant to interfere with the laws of supply and demand which under conditions ruling are fast placing the labour of Japan as to reward or wage on the same footing as the labour of Western nations.

The producing power of Japanese labour, as compared with that of other nations is an important factor in the labour problem of Japan, which the writers hereinbefore referred to find it very convenient not to allude to. To get at the producing power of Japanese labour, as compared with American labour, the habits of the two workers must be considered. The Japanese carries into the workshops or field, or any ordinary undertaking requiring the expenditure of physical force, Oriental customs which seem to be part of his nature. They are so habituated to the practice of resting at frequent intervals, to smoke, chat, or drink tea, that when what is called a day's work is summed up, the production as compared with the ordinary output of an American workman, who gives ten long hours to his labour, under almost perfect factory discipline, is found to be woefully less. It is no exaggeration, nor is it in any way intended to belittle the Japanese workman, who is simply continuing the independence ingrained with his being—and I believe, necessary to sustain his well being—to say that the American labourer produces more in three hours than his Japanese fellow workman does in what is called a day's work. This may undergo some modification when the time arrives that the bulk of the labour of Japan, skilled and otherwise, will spend the time devoted to labour within the walls of factories; but then the question will also arise, and its importance cannot at the present time be determined, as to whether the specially skilled labourer of Japan will thrive as well when subjected to factory discipline as they do at present in performing their daily work around their firesides, dividing their time to suit their inclinations.

The American working men need have no fear of competition with their Japanese fellow workers, nor need the people of the United States interested in trade pursuits regard with apprehension the possibility of American capital

seeking investment here in Japan, upon the coming into effect of the lately revised treaties. It is said that American and other foreign capital can and will be invested advantageously in Japan, and that industries will be built up here, under foreign supervision, for the production, with what is termed Japanese cheap labour, of commodities that may be brought into competition with home productions in the nations of Europe and the United States. Under the laws of Japan foreigners cannot hold real estate in fee nor will they be permitted to hold land by what is known as perpetual lease, except where such leases are running when the treaties become operative. The term of leasehold will not be greater than twenty-five years, and the rents and charges exacted will be such that the investment of capital here for mercantile and industrial purposes will be profitless. The safeguards thrown around the rights of lessors by the authorities, in this the manufacturing centre of Japan, are such that the transfer of leases between individuals cannot be legally effected without the consent of the original lessor. In other words it has been decided by the highest court to which a case was taken, that the transfer of a lease would be held as void unless recorded in the office of record of the prefecture, and the regulation of the prefecture is that the application for record of transfer must be made by the original lessor. With these precedents established, and the intense patriotism and love of country ingrained in the nature of the Japanese, who believe and practice the belief that Japan is and of right should be for the Japanese—and with the evidence of the present that in the schools and colleges of Japan, in the management of her navy and merchant marine, her railroads and private enterprises, wherever they have used foreigners as instructors, managers, or employees of any grade, they have ended or are striving to end such relationship—is it possible or reasonable to suppose that they will in the future permit foreigners or foreign capital managed by foreigners to profit by their labour.

In conclusion I again repeat that the labour of Japan, cheap or otherwise, need not cause anxiety to the guardians of the interests of American labour. The real rivals of American working men are in Great Britain and other European nations. Their competition is and ever must be with the nations of Europe, and the most important steps to be taken by the producers of the United States should be those which will in the near future enable them to stand side by side for the trade of the world, not with that portion of Asia which seems within the past three decades to have awakened from the sleep of ages, and become semi-Europeanized, but with those nations whose brothers and sons they are. In support of this statement it is only necessary to emphasize the fact that while in the balance sheet of the United States trade imports from the United States to Japan are yearly falling off, European imports on the contrary are increasing.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

7th October.

The following notes on the typhoon as experienced here may interest your readers:—

On the morning of the 5th the weather was very threatening, with driving clouds, the sun breaking through at frequent intervals. The junks, fishing boats, and sampans sought shelter, expecting a gale. At noon the black ball hoisted at the Harbour Office and the Barra and Guia forts warned us of the approach of the storm. The wind rose considerably and about half-past one was blowing a gale. About 4 o'clock rain commenced, falling at intervals. The steamers *Kiangtung* and *Heungshan* left the wharves soon after their arrival, the *Kiangtung* going to her buoy and the *Heungshan* to Malacca Bay. The barometer steadied about 6 p.m., but fell again after midnight, when the wind and rain increased. At 2 a.m. on the 6th the typhoon guns were fired from Monte Fort. The sky was quite black and the wind blew in strong gusts from the E.N.E. and E. At eight o'clock the sea was washing about a foot deep over the Inner Praya, but soon fell again. The wind continued all day with heavy rain squalls and the two steamers re-

mained at their anchorages. The lowest reading of my aneroid barometer was 29.51. About 6 p.m. it began to rise, but slowly, and the wind changed to the south, blowing strong, but gradually decreasing. Heavy rain continued to fall the whole night and for a few hours we had thunder and lightning. The steamers returned to their wharves on the 7th about 6 a.m. No damage was done to property, so far as I have observed, except that the Praya Grande was cut up somewhat and a lot of paving stones which had become loose were scattered about the roadway, and the triumphal arches that were being erected in front of Government House for the reception of H.E. Horta e Costa were smashed to pieces.

8th October.

H. E. Senhor Horta e Costa is expected to arrive on the 10th or 11th inst., and preparations for his reception were begun last Saturday. Triumphal arches are being erected and in the evening there are to be illuminations on the Praya. The Union Club's ball will take place on the 14th, and the Committee have already sent out their invitations.

His Excellency is bringing with him power to carry out many of his schemes for the welfare and prosperity of the colony, and no doubt he will lose no time in commencing with the various projects that have so long been his dream. He will find rather a difficult task to deal with in the repair of the Praya Grande wall, but the public have confidence in his experience and ability to do what is required.

A telegram has just been received stating that H.E. Senhor Horta e Costa has had conferred upon him by H.M. the King of Portugal the title of "Conselheiro de Sua Magestade Fidelissima." This shows the confidence entertained in him by the Lisbon Government.

According to the *Boletim* the military band is not to play in the Public Gardens for the whole of this week, and the public is thus deprived of its usual entertainment. This is considered mere arbitrariness and an expression of resentment on the part of the Acting Governor for the criticism to which he has recently been subjected. He is supposed to be irritated because with the arrival of the Governor his opportunities of exhibiting his own importance will come to an end. Also he has had an unpleasant jar in being ordered to refund to a Hongkong firm a sum of over a hundred dollars overcharged for passports given to Chinese passengers that went from here to Australia last year. There has been a great deal of correspondence about the matter, but it has now been settled in a sense contrary to that contended for by the Colonial Secretary.

A few days ago a telegram was received from Lisbon ordering the gunboats *Bengo* and *Diu* to be ready to leave for Lisbon. No one knows the meaning of calling both the gunboats home. This will leave us without a man-of-war.

The *Diu* is leaving to-morrow or the day after for Hongkong to convey H.E. Horta e Costa here.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Eighteen leaders of the late rebellion in Chin-chow district were captured on 12th ultimo. One of them was named Li Sai-chiu, who was arrested in an opium divan. He was asked to point out his residence, and on the house being strictly searched there were found a written document containing thirty articles in the form of a manifesto and two pictures, the subject of one of them being the gate of Mok-yang city with two dead bodies lying outside, and of the other a large castle, with four large characters, "Fan-ching, Fuk-ming," i.e. "To overthrow the Taching dynasty is to re-establish the Ming dynasty." He confessed that he was the second leader and that the first leader was in Chang-loh district recruiting men to join in the rebellion. He had more than eight thousand men under supervision. Ngai-un, a well-known leader in Ping-un district, had promised to join him in the rebellion. The standard of rebellion was proposed to be raised at the time when the Roman Catholic Church was completely built at Tsan-ping district. They were to break down the church first and then kill the local mandarins there.

On the 2nd instant the Superintendent of the local police force, Li Ka-chenk, made a raid on a military officer's house inside the city, where a number of appliances for making counterfeit coins were found. The only person in the house at the time was an old woman, who was at once arrested, and the house was sealed up.

On the 6th instant in Canton the sky was overcast, the wind blew very hard, and rain fell in torrents. All the boats ran to places of shelter. Very slight damage was reported.

A junk which was plying between Sai-nam and Canton was robbed on the 28th ultimo, when she was sailing near the coast of Wongting. The robbers boarded the junk as passengers as usual. They robbed all the passengers and broke open a safe which contained one thousand taels.

Governor Hu Tsen-wai has sent servants to bring his family to Canton and they are expected to arrive in a few days.

The third son of Viceroy Tan Chung-lun arrived at Canton on the 2nd instant by the gunboat *Kwangtung*, which came to Hongkong to meet him on the 1st instant.

HANKOW.

28th September.

H.M.S. *Esk* arrived here on the 26th, from Kiukiang, and moored off the British Consulate. I hear she will remain here until the end of October. No leave has so far been granted, owing to the great amount of sickness now prevailing on shore.

The steamers arriving from Ichang on the 27th report that the country on the way down is flooded in many places, and that there have been very heavy rains at Ichang.

The steamer *Prosper* left here for Swatow yesterday morning with a full general cargo. This move on the part of her Chinese charterers will probably wake up the other merchants, and we may soon expect to see vessels owned by foreigners starting on the same route. There should be a good business on the run.

The water mark on the 26th was 42 feet 8 inches, on the 27th 43 feet 9 inches, and today it is 43 feet 11 inches, still rising. Another foot will flood the Bund and cause great inconvenience.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

HONGKONG.

We were threatened with another typhoon this week, but fortunately the expectations were not realised and the weather seems to be settled now. On Thursday the shareholders in the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, had their annual meeting. The Sanitary Board also met on the same day. The Hongkong Volunteer Corps went into camp in Stonecutters Island on Monday morning and will remain there a week.

H.M.S. *Narcissus* arrived from the North on the 8th October.

There were 1,742 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 147 were Europeans.

A draft of about two hundred and fifty men of the Hongkong Regiment arrived from Calcutta by the *Catherine Apar*.

On the 7th October Hon. Commander Hastings committed for trial the two men charged with the murder of two mafios at Causeway Bay.

Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, was one of the passengers by the *Empress of China*, having returned from leave of absence.

The C. P. steamer *Empress of China* made the run from Vancouver to Yokohama on her last trip in 11 days, 3 hours, 17 minutes, corrected time.

The maximum temperature last month was 90.6, on the 4th, and the minimum 75.8, on the 16th, the mean for the month being 81.5. The rainfall amounted to 9.995 inches.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Colour-Sergeant F. Maitland has been appointed Lieutenant of the Machine Gun Company of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, vice Lieut. E. Osborne, resigned.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$20,963, being a decrease of \$3,074 on the amount collected in the same month last year. \$2,099 of the decrease is accounted for under the heading of probate.

The following Ordinances have been approved by Her Majesty.—An Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Lee Shew, and an Ordinance to supplement the provisions of the Licensing Consolidation Ordinance, 1887.

Mr. G. P. Lammert sold the British iron ship, *Glen Caladh*, by auction on Friday. The hull, with one anchor and chain down fetched \$5,000, the purchaser being a Chinaman. The remaining anchors, chains, sails, and appurtenances were sold in different lots and realized about \$2,000.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram giving the result of the September cyanide clean-up:—The cyanide plant ran 22 days treating 720 tons of concentrates yielding 323 ozs of bullion of an average assay value of £1 18s. per oz.

Beginning with the *China*, sailing from San Francisco October 8th, and the *City of Peking*, sailing from Hongkong October 27th, all steamers of the Pacific Mail S. S. Co. and Occidental and Oriental S. S. Co. will call at Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe, both on their outward and homeward voyages, passing through the Inland Sea.

At the Police Court on the 7th October a Chinese youth was charged with stealing a bangle from an inmate of a brothel and the Magistrate sent him to gaol for four months and further ordered him to receive twelve strokes with the rattan. Later some of the prisoner's friends appeared in Court and begged the Magistrate to impose a more lenient penalty, promising at the same time to send the accused away from the colony. His Worship consented to reduce the punishment to a fine of \$150.

At the Police Court on the 9th October Mr. Van Epps was summoned for disobeying four notices served on him by the Sanitary Board to abate nuisances existing on his property. The defendant stated that a portion of the work had been executed. His Worship said the Sanitary Board had given defendant every consideration and had extended the notices on several occasions. He imposed a fine of \$10 in respect of each notice and allowed fourteen days in which to abate the nuisances.

The Right Rev. L. M. Piazzoli begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations for the Home of the Aged and Infirm:—

Already acknowledged	\$3,181.00
A Friend	50.00
Leon Ynn Kwong	29.25
Lam Lai Koo	13.10
Yong Win-hong	13.50
Chau Keen-shin	13.00
Chan Yu-on	9.80
Low Yan-shou	9.00
Ching Hop-hin	6.50
Hi Wiu-fuk	6.50
Lam Fei-shing	5.00

An important Crown land sale was conducted on Monday afternoon by Mr. J. H. Prosser. The lot was marine lot No. 278 situate in Connaught Road, Praya Reclamation. The ground contains 8,427 square feet, the annual rent is \$155, and the upset price was \$67,416. There was only one bidder and the lot was knocked down to Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, who was acting for the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, for \$67,441. We understand that offices are to be built on the site, which is between Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's new premises, and the new office being erected for the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

On Monday morning another case of murder was reported to the Police. An Indian constable was on duty in Kowloon Road when he came across the dead body of a Chinaman in the middle of the road. The man had evidently met a violent death. There was what looked like a bullet wound in his face and another at the back of his head. No one has yet been arrested in connection with the murder. In the afternoon the post mortem examination was held and it turned out that the wounds were not, as was at first supposed, caused by a revolver shot. The deceased had been struck a most violent blow on the back of the head and the injury near the nose was caused by the victim falling forwards on his face.

On 6th October Surgeon-Colonel Evatt delivered a most interesting lecture at the In-

stitute of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, the subject being "The medical arrangements of a British Army in War." Owing to the wet weather there was, unfortunately, only a small attendance, but the audience was most attentive and appreciative and at the conclusion expressed the hope that Surgeon-Colonel Evatt would repeat the lecture. His Honour Dr. Carrington (Chief Justice) presided, and in opening the proceedings said that years ago he was connected with the Volunteers and held a commission at Oxford, while of late years he held a commission in British Guiana. Surgeon-Colonel Evatt then delivered his lecture. He showed in a very clear and able manner how the wounded in the field of battle were cared for and how a wounded soldier was conveyed by easy stages from the field to the Netley Hospital in England. The lecturer graphically described the organisation of the Army Medical Staff Corps, contrasted the treatment the wounded soldiers receive now with what they received during the Crimean War, and averred that so perfect were the arrangements now that a wounded man could be as well cared for on the field of battle as in his own home. The lecturer also spoke eloquently on the efforts of medical officers to prevent disease, dwelling particularly on the means now taken to prevent overcrowding in the barracks and instancing the case of the London Guards—the finest body of men in the world—who years ago died in large numbers from consumption due to overcrowding. Such was not the case now; each soldier had 600 cubic feet of air and every measure possible was taken to avoid transgressing Nature's laws. Hearty votes of thanks were passed at the conclusion. We understand that Surgeon-Colonel Evatt will repeat his lecture towards the end of this month.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The sailing vessel *Lillian L. Robbins* formerly of Yarmouth, U.S.A., which left New York on the 4th June, 1895, for the Far East, and which was dismantled in a typhoon and put into Saigon, has now been towed to Singapore.

The *Nagasaki Shipping List* understands that a court-martial was recently held on board H.M.S. *Spartan*, at Port Hamilton, upon one of the officers of the *Daphne*, who was sentenced to lose twelve months' seniority and to be dismissed his ship.

The chartered Spanish transport *Montserrat*, Capt. Marroig, with troops for the Philippines, arrived at Singapore on the 1st October from Barcelona, via Penang, calling en route at Malta and Aden. She left Barcelona on the 8th September, having on board 93 passengers, 31 officers, and 1,043 troops.

The final of the Shanghai C.C. Lawn Tennis Handicap (Singles) took place on the 1st October between Messrs. P. A. Cox and W. H. Drummond, the latter owing 15 and 1 and giving 15 to his opponent. The first set was won by Drummond by 6 games to 4, and the second and third sets by Cox by 6 to 2 and 6 to 1.

On the 21st September a Russian soldier was hanged outside Nagasaki by order of a court martial. He had been on board a transport and had threatened to shoot the captain. When the transport arrived at Nagasaki he was handed over to the man-of-war and tried. The war-vessel then got up steam, proceeded outside, hanged the culprit, and returned to her anchorage.—*Union*.

A new Chief Bureau for Mining has been recently established at Changsha, the provincial capital of Hunan, which has for its object the opening of mines in Hunan with foreign plant. Connected with this Bureau will be the office of the commercial branch of the Telegraph Administration, while the Government line office will be, for convenience sake, situated next door to the Governor's yamen.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A collision occurred off the Wada Quarantine Station at 7.50 p.m. on the 29th September between the *Suminoye-maru* and the *Vulcan*, inward bound from Shanghai. The Japanese steamer was rather severely damaged about the bows and assistance had to be sent from the *Sakura-maru* (the quarantine steamer) before the disabled vessel could be towed by the quarantine launch into Hyogo Bay. There were no personal injuries, but the *Suminoye's* cargo—50 barrels of sugar and 208 bags of rice—was in part damaged.—*Hyogo News*.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 10th October says:—There was another abnormally high tide yesterday. Many parts of Hongkong were flooded; the water was nearly a foot deep on the Public Garden foreshore, and poured through the gateway into the road, which, owing to the drains being unequal to the task of carrying the volume of water away, resembled a small lake. All the jetties along the Bund were awash, and in some places the water had overflowed the Bund itself. Along the North Soochow Road the water was half-way across the road. The French Bund was completely flooded, and some of the buildings facing the river had several inches of water in the compounds and passages.

A pleasant little ceremony took place in the reading room of the Hongkong Hotel yesterday morning. His Excellency the Governor of Macao arrived in Hongkong by the French mail steamer *Melbourne* and about six o'clock in the morning he proceeded to the Hongkong Hotel to wait for the Portuguese gunboat *Dis*, which was to convey him to Macao, whither he is returning after six months' leave of absence. While in the hotel his Excellency was waited upon by the Portuguese Consul, Mr. A. G. Romano, the directors of the Lusitano Club, several Portuguese residents, and one or two officials who had made a special journey from Macao. The Consul acted as spokesman and after warmly welcoming the Governor back to the Far East thanked him for acting as the bearer of the photograph in oils of the King of Portugal, which his Majesty had sent to be placed in the Lusitano Club. His Excellency suitably replied and at 9.30 embarked on the gunboat for Macao.

The Chinkiang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—Another factory, which some of the natives are wondering about, and are curiously asking to find out what it is put up for, is what might be called the Egg Factory. Not that eggs are manufactured there, no, no, but that they are packed for shipping after going through a course of preparation. Some German gentlemen are at the head of the establishment. The whites and yolks are separated, then after a certain treatment are heated in small tin pans. After the heating the white of the eggs has a candied consistency and colour, and is ready for shipping in large boxes. When a native was asked what was to be done with the shipped article he answered, "We Chinese have a saying 'Believe nothing that you hear and all that you see!' I have not seen what they do with the article, but I hear that the foreigners use it to make lamp chimneys with." However that may be, he is quite certain that the price of duck eggs is advancing, and unless this wholesale shipping is stopped, he does not know where the coming generations will get one of their most important articles for a first-class feast.

The Japanese papers comment on "a great improvement" in the method of purchasing rails, locomotive engines, &c., by the Railway Bureau. For over twenty years all had been bought through Messrs. Malcolm Bunker & Co. of London under a special contract, the money being sometimes paid in advance. Some Japanese merchants some time ago sent a petition to the Railway Bureau asking that the contract should be given to them. The petition was rejected by the Railway Bureau on the ground that the Japanese merchants had not sufficient experience in the business. Enraged at this, a certain Japanese merchant imported very good rails from London cheaper than those obtained through Messrs. Malcolm Bunker & Co. and presented them gratis to the Railway Bureau (!) Since the promulgation of the Law of Finance, all articles valued over 500 yen are bound to be purchased by public tender. The Railway Bureau did not observe the law and continued the contract with Messrs. Malcolm Bunker & Co. Mr. Shirane, the last Minister for Communications, insisted upon an adherence to the law, and on the 18th Sept. public tenders were invited for the first time for the contract of certain goods. Messrs. Illies & Co. and many other foreign firms in Japan tendered, but a Japanese merchant was successful. This left the Railway Bureau a profit of £16,603 sterling. It may, but that has yet to be proved. The cheapest goods are not as a rule the most profitable from the consumer's point of view.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

COMMERCIAL.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN		
1896-97	1895-96	
lbs.	lbs.	
Canton and Macao	4,117,832	4,960,935
Shanghai and Hankow	15,205,250	15,872,867
Foochow	10,617,736	8,518,499
Grand Total	29,940,808	29,352,301

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA		
1896-97	1895-96	
lbs.	lbs.	
Shanghai	8,300,303	17,314,564
Amoy	8,892,548	7,967,866
Foochow	1,131,222	1,608,212
Grand Total	18,324,113	26,890,642

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA		
1896-97	1895-96	
lbs.	lbs.	
Yokohama	19,604,555	25,891,698
Kobe	9,292,675	14,740,622
Grand Total	28,897,230	40,632,320

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 9th October.—(From Mr. A. R. Barkill's circular).—London messages to 7th current quote Gold Kilins 8/6 (a further slight advance) and Blue Elephants 10/6, with a firm market. The tone of the market is decidedly better, firm offers from this side meet with a more ready response, and the demand is extending to nearly all grades and classes. 'Isatlees comprise, as usual, the bulk of the Settlements and for favourite chops an advance of 1/5 per picul on last week's quotations has been paid. Hangchows are very scarce and only about 50 bales have changed hands at an advance of 1/5 per picul. Tayssams.—About 200 bales are going forward at quotations; prices are firm at a slight advance. Yellow Silks are still in short supply, and there is a good deal of competition for the best qualities. Settlements, 100 piculs. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns 1st to 7th current, 1,144 bales White, 241 piculs Yellow, and 79 piculs Wild Silks. Filatures and Re-reels.—About 100 bales Hand Filatures have been settled chiefly for Europe. American advices are said to be more encouraging. Considerable quantities of Steam and Hand Filatures are now under offer to the New York market and some business appears likely to ensue. A purchase of 13/10 Steam Filature is reported at 1/5 6/25 and 6/15 for Nos. 1 and 2. The export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows:—To London 2 bales, Continent 739 bales, and America 244 bales. Wild Silks.—No further settlement reported. Waste Silk.—There has been a better demand during the week, and a fair business has been done, especially in low grades. Supplies are very moderate, and the stock in Shanghai is small for the time of year.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE		
1896-97	1895-96	
bales.	bales.	
Canton	9,276	5,808
Shanghai	15,249	29,933
Yokohama	2,358	9,749
Grand Total	26,833	45,490

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA		
1896-97	1895-96	
bales.	bales.	
Canton	547	4,044
Shanghai	461	4,372
Yokohama	1,525	9,683
Grand Total	2,533	18,099

HONGKONG, 13th October.—Prices are a little higher. Quotations for Formosa are \$49.75 to \$50. During the week sales have been 150 piculs.

HONGKONG, 13th October.—A slight improvement in this market has to be reported and prices are advancing a little. Following are the quotations:—
Shanghai, No. 1, White, \$7.22 to \$7.25 per picul.
do. No. 2, White, 6.45 to 6.48
Shanghai, No. 1, Brown, 4.52 to 4.56
do. No. 2, Brown, 4.35 to 4.38
Swatow, No. 1, White, 7.15 to 7.18
do. No. 2, White, 6.47 to 6.50
Swatow, No. 1, Brown, 4.37 to 4.40
do. No. 2, Brown, 4.23 to 4.25
Soochow Sugar Candy, 10.72 to 10.75
Sackloong, 9.47 to 9.50

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer Canton, Hongkong to Buenos Aires 3rd October, took:—800 packages Tea; for Marseilles:—1 case Silk Piece Goods; for Manchester:—50 bales Waste Silk; for London:—13,222 boxes Tea (43,833 lbs. Congou, 225,519 lbs. Scented Capor, 8,660 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe), 825 bales Canes, 598 bales Waste Silk, 1,502 bales Hemp, 50 bales Feathers, 759 rolls Mats and Mattings, 350 cases Preserves, 211 cases Preserves, 4 cases Cigars from Manila, 3 cases Silk Piece Goods, 48 cases Blackwoodware, 3 cases China-ware, 25 cases Private Effets, 3 cases Camphorwood Boxes, 20 cases Bristles, and 1 case Copper Gongs.

The steamer Rohilla, Hongkong to Manchester, 8th October, took:—450 bales Waste Silk; for London:—1 box Feathers, and 3 cases Silk Piece Goods; for Gibraltar:—1 case Curios; for France:—3 cases Silk Goods, 974 bales Raw Silk, and 200 bales Hemp; for Milan:—10 bales Raw Silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 13th October.—Bengal.—There has been a fall in prices during the period under review, Patna closing at \$730 for New, at \$750 Old, and New Benares at \$752.

Malwa.—A steady business has passed in this drug during the interval at rates which show very little change from previous quotations:—

New (this yr's)	730 with allance of 2 to 4 cts.
" (last yr's)	\$740 " 0 to 1 1/2 "
Old (2/3 yrs.)	\$760 " 0 to 1 1/2 "
Old (4/5 yrs.)	\$780 " 0 to 2 1/2 "
Older	\$800 " 0 to 1 1/2 "

Persian.—There has not been any change in prices, Oily continuing to be quoted at \$540 to \$580, and Paper-wrapped at \$550 to \$650 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are given as under:—

New Patna	1830 chests.
Old Patna	38 "
New Benares	375 "
Old Benares	16 "
Malwa	300 "
Persian	360 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Oct. 6	736 1/2	750	762 1/2	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 9	736 1/2	750	762 1/2	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 10	732 1/2	750	757 1/2	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 11	730	750	757 1/2	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 12	727 1/2	750	752 1/2	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 13	730	750	752 1/2	—	730/740	760/800

RICE.

HONGKONG, 13th October.—Holders are firm and prices show an upward tendency. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.38 to 2.40
" Round, good quality	2.58 to 2.60
" Long	2.75 to 2.78
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.47 to 2.50
" Garden, No. 1	2.85 to 2.87
" White	3.22 to 3.25
" Fine Cargo	3.35 to 3.37

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 13th October.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—20 bales No. 8 at \$72, 700 bales No. 10 at \$75 to \$79.50, 305 bales No. 12 at \$78 to \$82, 441 bales No. 16 at \$84 to \$93, 676 bales No. 20 at \$94 to \$97. White Shirtings.—430 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.90, 450 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.75. T-Cloths:—375 piece a 7 lbs Mexican Feather Brush at \$1.85, 375 pieces 7 lbs Mexican Red Stag at \$2.40. Long Ells.—100 pieces 9 lbs Scarlet at \$2.40.

\$7.05. Camlets.—100 pieces Dark Blue B.B.B. at \$29.25.
Metals.—Lead.—165 piculs Australia at \$3.90.
Tin.—10 slabs Foochow at \$33. Quicksilver.—1550 flasks at \$108 to \$119.75.
COTTON YARN.—
Bombay.—Nos. 10 to 20 at \$69.00 to \$93.00.
English.—Nos. 16 to 24 at \$100.00 to \$105.00.
do. Nos. 22 to 24 at \$103.00 to \$108.00.
do. Nos. 28 to 32 at \$113.00 to \$119.00.
do. Nos. 38 to 42 at \$118.00 to \$126.00.
COTTON PIECE GOODS.—
Gray Shirtings.—6 lbs at \$1.40 to \$1.55.
7 lbs at \$1.75 to \$1.95.
8 1/2 lbs at \$2.00 to \$2.30.
9 to 10 lbs at \$2.20 to \$2.40.
White Shirtings.—54 to 56 rd at \$2.15 to \$2.35.
58 to 60 " at \$2.50 to \$2.70.
64 to 66 " at \$3.00 to \$3.50.
Fine " at \$3.90 to \$6.90.
Book-folds at \$3.20 to \$5.40.
Victoria Lawns.—12 yards at \$0.60 to \$1.25.
T-Cloths.—6 lbs (32 in.) Ord'y at \$1.40 to \$1.55.
7 lbs (32 ") at \$1.80 to \$2.95.
6 lbs (32 "), Mex. at \$1.60 to \$1.75.
7 lbs (32 ") at \$2.15 to \$2.40.
8 to 8 1/2 lbs (36 in.) at \$2.35 to \$3.05.
Drills, English.—40 yds, 13 1/2 to 14 lbs at \$3.20 to \$4.30.

FANCY COTTONS.—
Turkey Red Shirtings.—14 to 15 lbs at \$1.20 to \$3.50.
Brocades.—Dyed at \$3.75 to \$4.50 per yard.
Damasks at \$0.12 to \$0.15.
Chintzes.—Assorted at \$0.07 to \$0.10.
Velvets.—Black, 22 in. at \$0.21 to \$0.38.
Velveteens.—18 in. at \$0.16 to \$0.30 per dozen.
Handkerchiefs.—Imitation Silk at \$0.40 to \$0.85.

WOOLLEN.—
Spanish Stripes.—Sundry chops at \$0.55 to \$0.95.
German at \$1.00 to \$1.15.
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths at \$1.25 to \$1.60.
Long Ells.—Scarlet at \$6.50 to \$8.00.
Assorted at \$6.60 to \$8.10.
Camlets.—Assorted at \$13.00 to \$27.00.
Lastings.—30 yds., 31 inches, at \$10.00 to \$18.00.
Assorted at \$10.00 to \$18.00.
Orleans.—Plain at \$3.00 to \$3.60.
Blankets.—8 to 12 lbs at \$4.80 to \$8.40.

METALS.—
Iron.—Nail Rod at \$3.32 to \$3.34.
Square, Flat Round Bar at \$3.32 to \$3.34.
Swedish Bar at \$3.32 to \$3.34.
Small Round Rod at \$3.32 to \$3.34.
Hoop at \$3.32 to \$3.34.
Old Wire Rope at \$3.32 to \$3.34.
Lead, Australian at \$6.80 to \$6.82.
Yellow Metal.—Muntz 14/28 oz at \$28.00 to \$28.50.
Vivian's 16/32 oz at \$26.75 to \$27.00.
Elliot's 16/28 oz at \$26.50 to \$26.75.
Japan Copper, Slabs at \$3.32 to \$3.34.
Tin at \$3.32 to \$3.34.

Tin-Plates at \$5.00 to \$5.00 per cwt.
Steel at \$4.35 to \$4.35 per cwt.
SUNDRIES.—
Quicksilver at \$110.00 to \$110.00 per box.
Window Glass at \$3.65 to \$3.65 per 10-gal case.
Kerosene Oil at \$2.05 to \$2.05 per 10-gal case.

SHANGHAI, 8th October.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report).—This has apparently been a very quiet week in almost every description of goods, the only exception to be noted being an improved demand for American drills for Newchwang. From what we can gather a fair business has been done in the better qualities several lines of P.M.C. Drills having been placed at prices ranging from 1/5 to 1/6. Tla 3/52 1/2. Spot sales of other goods are for the very smallest proportions and can only be wanted to cover the barest current requirements. Prices, as far as they go, keep steady enough, and clearances, despite the absence of favourable weather, are satisfactory, but there are distinct signs of weakness at the auctions, the greatest falling off being in the prices of White Shirtings. Advances from the 'Outports' are rather better. Business at Tientsin is slowly and gradually improving, and as the season is now within measurable distance of its end, it is not unlikely that the market will be better supplied than it has been for some time.

tance of closing it is hoped that dealers will not delay taking action much longer. Demand from Newchwang, as stated above, is better, but so far attention has only been attracted to American makers, although there is also some inquiry for the heavier makes of Grey Shirtings. A quiet business continues for Chefoo and Ningpo, but there is scarcely anything doing for Hankow, where the financial troubles, that have been at work for some time, have culminated in the collapse of some well known Tea houses.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bieffeld & Co.'s report.)—9th October.—There has not yet been any sign showing of retreating activity, dealers continuing to maintain an indifferent attitude towards the home markets, finding the local situation sufficiently interesting in its complication of heavy stocks, poor demand, and dear money. Silver has again dropped standing now at 30d with Exchange 2s. 10d. T. T. on London. No improvement in local values has yet set in, but generally the tone is steady. Some 2,000 tons of Belgian Nitrates remain in first hands unsold, and natives apparently are quite satisfied that they should continue with their present holders at least until some reaction sets in. Tinplates are to be had from natives at 11s. 3.75 for 100 lbs. I. C. W., 14 by 20.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG October 13th.—The market has shown but little activity during the week under review and most of our principal stocks have been more or less neglected. Rates have ruled steady, but with an inclination downward.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—The demand for shares reported in my last was not long maintained, and sellers instead of buyers forward, soon ruled the market. A few and unimportant small sales have taken place for December at 197 and 198 per cent. premium and for February at 202 and 203 per cent. premium; cash shares have changed hands, also in small lots only, at 191½ and 192 per cent. premium. Market closes quiet at 192. The latest London rate quoted is £42 15s. Nationals have changed hands at \$25½ and are wanted at that rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Have all ruled quiet and beyond sales of Cantons at \$190 and of North Chinas and Yangtzes in the North at quotations I have nothing to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs still remain neglected with no sales at quotation. Chinas have changed hands at \$96½ and \$97, closing with buyers at former rate and sellers at the latter.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have found further buyers at \$33½ and are still wanted in small lots at that rate. Indo-Chinas have further declined to \$39 with sales; at that rate, however, a strong demand exists for the shares and none seem to be obtainable. China and Manila continue neglected and weak at quotation with no business. Douglasses appear to have dropped out of the market and few if any sales to have taken place during the week; sellers have ruled the market at \$57, \$56½, and \$56, at which last rate the stock closes with sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been unable to maintain their position and have ruled rather weaker with sales at \$138, \$137½, and \$137. At time of writing market looks a little firmer with buyers and sales at \$138. Luzons have continued to improve with sales at \$53, \$54, and \$56 cash, and at equivalent rates forward. Market closes weak at \$56.

MINING.—Punjoms.—The good result of last month's crushing, contrary to general expectations, has not strengthened the market, shares having been on offer during the week at \$12 and \$11.75 without leading to much business. Hands have further improved to \$6, at which they have been in strong demand; not many shares, however, have changed hands, holders not being desirous to part. Jelebus have found small buyers at quotation. Balmorals and Oliver's have continued quiet and neglected, and Charbonnages still continue out of the market.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after touching 220 per cent. prem., at which rate some small transactions were put through, eased up a little and have ruled quiet with little or no business, except small sales at 221 for the end of the

month and 224 per cent. prem. for end of November; shares, however, are still offering at these rates and buyers are scarce at the moment. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands at \$58½ and \$59, sellers at the latter rate ruling the market at the close. Wanchais have changed hands in small lots at quotation. Amoy Docks have been in some demand at \$13½, but no shares are forthcoming.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue steady with sales at \$75½ and \$76, market closing with buyers at the former and sellers at the latter rate. Hongkong Hotels, after a long period of inaction, have changed hands at \$29 and \$28½, closing steady. West Points continue in demand at \$19 and Humphreys Estates have been again negotiated in small lots at \$9.

MISCELLANEOUS.—With the exception of small sales of Ices at \$107 and Electrics at \$6.75, Watsons at \$12.85 and Fenwicks at \$29½, I have nothing to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks.		[\$365, s. & sellers
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	192 ½ prem. =
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$25½, sales & buyers
Founders Shares	£1	\$100
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	nominal
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$6
Carmichael & Co. ...	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$138, sal. & buyers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1, buyers
Dairy Farm Co. ...	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$29½, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$17½, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$6.75, sal. & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$97, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$28½, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$59, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$128, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$125	220 p. ct. prem. =
Insurance.		[\$400, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$190, sales & buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$97, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$76, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$342½, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 192½, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$27½, buyers
Union	\$25	\$235 ex div.
Yangtze	\$80	\$155, sales & sellers
Land and Building.		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$76, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$18½
West Point Building	\$40	\$19, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$56, sales
Mining.		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	72½
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.90, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.90
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$3.50, sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$11.75, sales
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3.60, sales
Raub	13s. 10d.	\$6, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$70, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2.10, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$56, sellers
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$33.25, sal. & buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$40, sales
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$45½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12.85, sales & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 9th October.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—A little more business was done during the week, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares receiving a little attention. Banks.—Cash shares have changed hands at 192 per cent. premium; and business was done for 31st January at 193 per cent. premium and for the 28th February at 204 per cent. premium. For delivery on the 26th shares were sold yesterday at 193. There is no business to report in other Bank stocks. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares were placed on the 2nd at Tls. 30½, but have since been sold at Tls. 29 cash, and to Hongkong at \$41 and \$40½. There are sellers at Tls. 29. Docks.—

Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been changing hands at Tls. 170. A few Shanghai E. S. & Dock shares, with Tls. 25 paid up, were placed at Tls. 81, but have since been offering at Tls. 36. Marine Insurance.—North Chinas have been sold at Tls. 190, Yangtzes at \$152½ to \$155 cash and \$159½ for the 31st current, and to Hongkong at \$155. There are shares offering at the close. Straits Insurance shares have been placed for the 31st December at \$28½. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have changed hands at Tls. 122½. Mining.—Sheridan's have been sold at Tls. 3½ and Tls. 3½, and are wanted. Punjoms, changed hands at \$11. Cargo Boats.—Shanghais were sold at Tls. 205 and Co-operatives at Tls. 180. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares have been placed at Tls. 4½. China Sugar Cultivation shares have been dealt in at irregular rates, following the Hongkong market. Cash shares were sold at \$138/139, shares for October delivery at \$141, for December at \$144, and for March at \$145 and \$142. We quote \$138 as the closing price. Luzons are neglected. Lands.—Hongkong Land Investment shares changed hands at \$76. Shanghai Lands are wanted. Major Brothers shares have declined to Tls. 40 with business done. Industrial.—Ewo Cotton shares were placed at Tls. 81/84, Laou-Kung-Mow Cotton shares at Tls. 95, and Shanghai Ice shares at Tls. 150. Miscellaneous.—Business was done in Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 475 cash and Tls. 510 for the 31st December, cum the new issue at par, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 68, Hall & Holtz shares at \$37, and A. S. Watson & Co. shares at \$3. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's Debentures were sold, 189½ per cent. issue at Tls. 106, and 1896 five per cent. at Tls. 161. Quotations are:

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$365.00.

National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$26.50.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$115.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£2.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 24.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—£8.5.0.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—£3 1s. 6d.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$33.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$65.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. Nominal.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 189.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 170.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$375.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$81.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 190.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$250.

Yangtze Inacc. Assn., Ltd.—\$153½.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$190.

Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$27½.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$335.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$96½.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 122½.

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$59.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 3½.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$124.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$33.

Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$5½.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 100.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 205.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 180.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 41½.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$138½.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$55½.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid).

—Tls. 81.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (Tls. 80 paid).

—Tls. 58.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$76.

Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$13.

Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 40.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 84.

International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95.

Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95.

Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 500.

Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 150.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 210.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 251.
 Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 110.
 Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 475.
 Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.
 —Nominol.
 Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 68.
 J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$45.
 Hall & Holts, Ltd.—\$37.
 A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$13.
 Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$8.
 Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$6.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 13th October.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/14
Bank Bills, on demand	2/14
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/14
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/14
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/14
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/14
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.65
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.70
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.14
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	51
Credits, 60 days' sight	52 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	177 1/2
Bank, on demand	178
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	177 1/2
Bank, on demand	178
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	15 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	
	9.32
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	
	48.00

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 8th October (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Since our last issue no change has occurred in the matter of freights, and rates remain steady both for London and New York; for the former port cargo is still going forward in very moderate quantities, whereas for the latter a fairly large business has been done both by steam and sail, the low rate of thirty shillings, no doubt, has been an inducement to shippers. Sail rates for New York are now the lowest we have seen for some time and it will be extraordinary if the only vessel open for cargo does not receive good support. Coasting.—Although there has been very little improvement, the demand for tonnage is perhaps a little better, especially from the Yangtze ports to the South, and altogether this trade has a brighter tendency. Now as we are nearing the closing season for the northern ports, we cannot but anticipate more enquiry for tonnage at enhanced rates. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; tea 30s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; tea 45s.; Boston via New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; Philadelphia, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; Hamburg, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 17s. 6d.; New York by Pacific Lines, 1 1/2 gold cents. per lb.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Java (str.), Ceylon (str.), Dar-danus (str.), Telona (str.), Pekin (str.), Glaucon (str.), Keoman (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Casablanca, Doris (str.), City of Peking (str.), Clan McFarlane.
 For MARSEILLES.—Douro (str.).
 For BREMEN.—Dorothea Rickmers (str.).
 For VICTORIA.—Altmore (str.), Olympia (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—Charles E. Moody, Saint Mark, Asloun (str.), Kansow (str.), William J. Reick, William H. Conner, Argyll (str.).
 For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).
 For AUSTRALIA.—Malacca (str.), Yamashiro Maru (str.), Australian (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

October—	
8, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.	
8, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.	
8, Fooksang, British str., from Wuhu.	
8, Hangchow, British str., from Swatow.	
8, Hoihow, British str., from Chinkiang.	
8, Kintuck, British str., from Liverpool.	
8, Loyal, German str., from Singapore.	
8, Marie Valerie, Austrian str., from Kobe.	
8, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.	
8, Milke Maru, Jap. str., from Seattle.	
8, Namyong, British str., from Singapore.	
8, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.	
8, Tricos, British str., from Singapore.	
8, Altmore, British str., from Portland.	
8, Nareissus, British cruiser, from Nagasaki.	
8, Din, Portuguese g.-bt., from Macao.	
8, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.	
8, Chingping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.	
8, Prosper, Norw. str., from Swatow.	
8, Clam, British str., from Novorossisk.	
9, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.	
9, Cowrie, British str., from Singapore.	
9, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.	
9, Chwnshan, British str., from Penang.	
9, Cam, British str., from New York.	
9, Shantung, British str., from Sourabaya.	
9, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.	
9, Cheangchow, British str., from S'pore.	
10, Loksang, British str., from Canton.	
10, Hangchow, British str., from Canton.	
10, Taicheong, German str., from Aroe Bay.	
10, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotsu.	
10, Wuotan, German str., from Swatow.	
11, Asloun, British str., from Amoy.	
11, Choysang, British str., from Canton.	
11, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.	
11, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.	
11, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.	
12, Benvorlich, British str., from Moji.	
12, Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.	
12, Nanshan, British str., from Hongay.	
12, Ceres, German str., from Hamburg.	
12, Vindobona, Austrian str., from Trieste.	
12, Skarpsno, Norw. str., from Port Wallut.	
13, Melbourne, French str., from Marseilles.	
13, Natal, French str., from Shanghai.	
13, Brunhilde, German str., from Probolinggo.	
13, Douro, French str., from Shanghai.	
13, Alger, French cruiser, from Foochow.	
13, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.	
October—	
8, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotsu.	
8, Teenkai, British str., for Amoy.	
8, Choysang, British str., for Canton.	
8, Decima, German str., for Saigon.	
8, Doris, German str., for Chefoo.	
8, E. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.	
8, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.	
8, Loongmoon, Ger. str., for Shanghai.	
8, Nestor, British str., for London.	
8, Rohilla, British str., for Europe.	
8, Yungching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
8, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.	
8, Fooksang, British str., for Canton.	
8, Hoihow, British str., for Canton.	
9, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.	
9, Kintuck, British str., for Amoy.	
9, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.	
9, Ningchow, British str., for Singapore.	
9, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., for San Francisco.	
9, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.	
9, Hinsang, British str., for Singapore.	
9, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.	
9, Tamsui, British str., for Shanghai.	
9, Verona, British str., for Japan.	
9, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.	
10, Chingping, Chinese str., for Canton.	
10, Cowrie, British str., for Kobe.	

10, Marie Valerie, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 10, Namyong, British str., for Amoy.
 10, Sadokuni Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 11, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 11, Cam, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Chowtai, British str., for Hoihow.
 11, Chas. E. Moody, Amr. str., for N. York.
 11, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Prosper, Norw. str., for Kelung.
 13, Loksang, British str., for Amoy.
 13, Irene, German str., for Hamburg.
 13, Rainier, British cruiser, for Singapore.
 13, Din, Portuguese g.-bt., for Macao.
 13, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 13, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 13, Melbourne, French str., for Shanghai.
 13, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 13, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Trocas, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Rohilla, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Mr. Hanson. For Penang.—Mr. Duncan. For London.—Colonel Courtenay Hixson, and Mr. and Mrs. Richardson.

Per Empress of China, str., for Hongkong from Vancouver.—Rev. J. A. and Mrs. Otto and child, Miss L. Otto, Master F. Otto, Miss M. Calkorn, Dr. and Mrs. F. P. B. Fest, Master and Miss Fest, Mr. H. Studley, Mrs. M. Purdy, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. May and child, Mr. and Mrs. B. Layton, Miss E. Layton, Messrs. Lionel Brooks and D. H. Bannerman. From Yokohama.—Miss M. C. Morrison, Rev. J. E. Pease, Mr. Chun Chung Yuh, Mr. and Mrs. Mager, Messrs. F. S. Blackwell and C. T. Shorland, Mrs. D. E. Brown, Mrs. Post, Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Coultas and son, Mrs. Geo. Caldwell, Mrs. Grant and infant, Surg. Major Doyle, Lieut. C. U. Percival, Capt. J. M. Benson, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Hancock, Mrs. J. H. S. Lockhart and child, Mr. R. Fuhrman, Mrs. Kirch and infant, Miss Melbourne, Mr. E. C. L. Wallace, Mrs. M. Beaumont, Mr. W. J. Palmer, Justice and Mrs. Blair, Messrs. J. Johnstone, K. Mouye, M. Fukuyawa, K. Yoda, R. Toovey, and Soon Ho Chan. From Kobe.—Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Ellsworth, Miss Baker, Mr. C. S. Joslyn, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Collins. From Nagasaki.—Capt. Ferguson. From Shanghai.—Messrs. Stafford Sassoon and H. J. Gedge, Lieut. C. H. H. Nugent, Mrs. C. Radcliffe, Lieut. D. Powis, Messrs. W. V. Drummond, Chas. E. Richardson, J. D. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. F. Schwarz, and Mr. Schwarz.

Per Irene, str., from Kobe.—Mr. Smith.
 Per Chowfa, str., from Bangkok, &c.—Miss Robertson, Miss Carver, and Mr. W. E. Ross.
 Per Ask, str., from Pakhoi.—Mr. Wanderleach.

Per Hongkong, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. H. W. Brasier.

Per Catherine Apcar, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Surg. Lieut. Hyde, Mrs. Hyde and 3 children, Miss Harvey, Miss Manuk, Messrs. R. Turnbull, C. I. E. A. Gregory, H. Bell, N. E. Ears, and Mrs. Thopp.

Per Namoa, str., from Coast Ports.—Messrs. Greig and Giess.

DEPARTED.

Per Rohilla, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Mr. H. Merecki. For Penang.—Mr. D. H. Bannerman. For Colombo.—Mr. E. C. L. Wallace. For Bombay.—Surg. Major Doyle. For Brindisi.—Messrs. G. Balloch and L. Brooks. For London.—Messrs. F. S. Blackwell and E. T. Shorland, Master J. Humphreys, and Mr. G. Patton. From Shanghai for Penang.—Mr. Duncan. For London.—Colonel J. C. Hixson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard. From Yokohama for Singapore.—Mr. G. A. Dias. For Bombay.—Mrs. F. C. Farmer and child, and Miss Varnum. For London.—Miss Webb.

Per City of Rio de Janeiro, str., for Kobe.—Messrs. M. O. Michelson and W. E. Hunt. For San Francisco.—Messrs. M. O. Laughton, R. N. F. H. Warner, and Surg. Lieut. Hyde, and family.

Per Esmeralda, str., for Manila.—Messrs. Luis Elsingre Dumas, R. Toovey, and Antonio Garcia.